



Mary Perkins

December 19, 1928 - May 14, 2023

MARY A. PERKINS

For all of you who have asked, “How old is Mary?” Here is the great reveal!

Mary Amelia Harberd was born to James and Lulah Harberd on December 19, 1928, in Coos Bay, OR. She spent most of her growing up years in Council, ID but moved to Glasgow, MT with her aunt and uncle to finish High School so she could take advanced classes that would allow her to go on to college. She attended Montana State, Pacific University and graduated from WSU where she received her Education Degree in Home Economics. Her first teaching job was in Pateros, WA where she met David Perkins, also a WSU grad. They were married on August 12, 1951.

Mary and David moved to Entiat where she was the Home Economics teacher and due to a school remodel, she was able to design the home ec room of her dreams. While in Entiat their daughter, Sue, was born in 1954 and son, Jim, was born in 1957. In Entiat Mary was very active in Jr. Women’s Club and served as State Director. This allowed her to travel to national conventions throughout the United States.

In 1961, the Wenatchee School District offered her a unique opportunity to help design a Jr. High Special Education Program for the district. She and her

colleagues not only provided basic skills classes for the students, but the program also included Home Ec, shop, art and even some dramatic movie making. She worked at Pioneer Jr. High as the Head Teacher of the Special Ed Department for many years. Her classes were known for their creative style shows and producing full banquets. She became the vice principal of Pioneer and then the principal. When she was principal of Pioneer, she led the staff & students in the change from being a Jr. High into a Middle School. She said that this was her favorite job as this was a highly successful transition.

The Wenatchee School District recognized her leadership skills and promoted her to Special Education Director which involved leading a 10-school district co-op. When the co-op was dissolved, she remained the Wenatchee Special Education Director where she worked until her retirement in 1989. The Eastmont School District then hired her as a part-time Special Education Director until she retired again in 1993.

Mary and David took full advantage of their retirements and traveled the world from Australia to Russia and Europe. They also enjoyed many visits to Mexico, Hawaii, and their condo at Depot Bay in Oregon.

Besides traveling, Mary was a leader in the state and local Washington State Retired School Employees Association. She served as State President and Board Member and was continually active at the local level organizing volunteer projects to help students in the Wenatchee Valley.

Throughout her prestigious career, her greatest love was for her family. She was always planning parties and ready to go on adventures with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The highlight of the weekend was having a home cooked dinner at "Grandma Perk's."

Mary died peacefully an hour after hosting a Mother's Day party at her condo.

After the guests left, she knew the party was over and she went to her “forever home” to be with God. She will be greatly missed by all.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, David. She is survived by brother, Jim Harberd and his wife, Fumiko; her daughter, Sue and her husband, Kevin Kane and Jim Perkins and his wife, Erika; grandchildren: Travis Kane (Dr. Sue), Emma Hopper (Nate), Kittrick Kane and Walker Kane and great-grandchildren: Wyatt and Collin Kane and Patrick Hopper. She also had many nieces and nephews that meant a great deal to her.

Mary attended Faith Presbyterian Church for many years and a Memorial Service be held on Saturday, July 8, 1:30 p.m., 200 S Kentucky Ave, East Wenatchee, WA.

In lieu of flowers, consider a contribution to WSSR-Foundation @ wssra.org; or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 8. 1:30 PM (PT)

Faith Prebyterian Church
200 S Kentucky Ave
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Tribute Wall

DL

“ I remember having Mary as my teacher at Pioneer Jr.High. One year a bunch of girls went to her house for a Christmas party. She taught me home economics how to cook and sew.I learned a lot from her she will be missed.

Signed Debbie(Tidwell) Lowell e-mail address is debbie_steve0325@yahoo.com

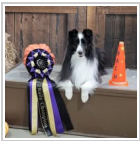
Debbie (Tidwell) Lowell - July 05, 2023 at 04:02 PM

MS

“ I was a student at pioneer Jr high in 1969 72 she helped me a lot when I was going through dark times in my life she was a very special lady and a great friend and teacher she took me to her home and out shopping and dinners I will greatly miss her I loved her so much we kept in touch for a long time she gave the name mj I'll be seeing you love you mj sizmore



Mj sizmore - June 02, 2023 at 06:34 PM



“ I am so grateful to my Aunt Mary's children, Sue and Jim, for making it possible for me to visit Mary in April. Living on the east coast, I did not get to see her often and it had been many years since my last visit. It was so special to see her again and to reconnect with my cousins, their spouses and new generations whom I had not yet met. Mary was a very special woman who will be missed, but remembered, by many ❤️.

Carol Perkins - May 22, 2023 at 01:03 PM

BI

“ *My teacher in high school, my friend for life.. Precious memories from Barbara McCarrell Ingersoll*

Barbara Ann Ingersoll - May 20, 2023 at 11:08 PM

RH

“ *I was a student of her at pioneer middle school. You couldn't of asked for a more caring and loveable Teacher or person. I just hope my son's are as lucky as I was to have such wonderful teacher/person to influence them in there school years/life. You will be surely missed Mrs Perkins thank you for everything you done. God bless your formal student Ruby Haynes. 🙏🌹*

Ruby Haynes - May 20, 2023 at 09:51 AM