



Marva Lou Walker

October 17, 1936 - January 11, 2022

Marva Lou Walker, age 85, passed away January 11, 2022. She was born in Redmond, Oregon on October 17, 1936, to Calvin and Martha (Houston) Sherman.

Marva grew up on a 53,000-acre cattle ranch on the high desert of Central Oregon. She moved to Bend and stayed with her grandparents in 1950 to attend high school at Bend High. After high school, she attended Marylhurst University in Portland and then returned to Bend and became a Licensed Practical Nurse.

She met her future husband in a potato field east of Bend near the current location of the St. Charles campus. She married Wallace Walker when she was 18 and Charles was born nine months later. The couple raised their children in the Bend area where she also helped to manage Wally's excavation business. In addition to raising their own kids, they served as foster parents for 40 children during the 1960s.

Marva began her nursing career at the old hospital on the hill. After years of working as an LPN and at the age of 50, she decided to go back to school and get her Registered Nurse license. Marva was very proud of working in the ICU and of mentoring new nurses when she worked as a house supervisor on the night shift.

Reflecting back Marva would tell you her love of nursing began as a child caring for sick and injured animals on the ranch. It was common to find her bottle feeding an abandoned kitten or diapering bummer lambs that needed

her attention in the house until they were strong enough for life outdoors. In retirement the couple moved to an 85-acre farm in Kimberly, Oregon where Marva was a dedicated member of the Monument Senior Center.

Marva's greatest joy was her role as matriarch of the family that she loved so very much. She loved playing games and traveling with her grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking, canning, gardening and being a hostess for family gatherings.

She is preceded in death by both parents and brother, Leroy Sherman. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Wallace Walker; son, Charles and wife Linda Walker of Roseburg, Oregon, Roger Lee and his wife Denni Walker of Redmond, Oregon; daughter, Teresa Walker and Bob Rose of Oak Point, Texas; grandchildren, Jennifer and Jason Anderson, Jonathan and Christmas Walker, Chassie and Casey Martin, Calla and Travis Frazier, Ciera Yost, Wally Walker, and Sam Walker; 8 great grandchildren and a host of much-loved extended family.

Family will hold services privately at a later date.

Tribute Wall

KF

“ I was so sorry to learn of Sparkie’s passing. Sparkie\ Marva has always been one of my favorite people. My mom, Sparkie’s cousin Leora, was so fortunate to have Sparkie, Aunt Martha, and Uncle Calvin in her life. My brother, my sisters, and I were equally fortunate to have Sparkie, Wally, Chuck, Lee, and Teresa in ours. Sparkie and her mother shared the wonderful qualities of generosity, understanding, and acceptance. Sparkie managed to maintain a home and family on a working farm while also working full time as a nurse. I saw her as a role model. She was amazingly hospitable, and her home was always one of our very favorite places to go. My last really good memories of Sparkie include a quick trip to Kimberly with my sisters for Wally’s 85th birthday and a Houston family reunion just before Sparkie and Wally left for Oklahoma. Their move was understandable, but there was a deep sense of loss and nostalgia for family events from days gone by. We were all fortunate to have Sparkie and Wally in our lives. They have both been wonderful examples of how life should be lived.

Kathy Egger Fink

Kathy Egger Fink - February 15, 2022 at 02:28 AM

RS

“ I married into this family when I married Daniel Sherman, Marva's nephew, in 1990. My first introduction to Marva was on week #2 of Dan's and my honeymoon when we did a 3 week whirlwind trip to all of the places in Oregon that were important to Dan. By week #2 of being out of my Minnesota element, I was tired, overwhelmed by new people and places, and I hurt from the hours spent in the car traveling. I recall Dan telling me, before we walked into Marva's home, that "being with Marva - wherever she is - is like being at home". Within an hour of arriving, Marva walked me back to her bathroom, where she filled a large spa-like tub with warm water and lots of bubbles. She said "bring your fresh clothes in here and you just soak and be alone for as long as you want! I will lock the door on my way out". I was dumbfounded at how she read my mind - I actually sat in the tub soaking and crying - thinking I had just landed at HOME! That evening Marva prepared a meal of the ONLY Tuna I have ever eaten that didn't come out of a can. It was amazing! I didn't know her as well as many members of the family, but I can honestly say that she is amongst the kindest, wisest, most forgiving people I have ever met. She was not a push over - and she wasn't afraid to say what was on her mind. I have nothing but respect for her and I am eternally grateful to be able to call her family. My love and hugs to all of you who are feeling her loss.

Ruth Sherman - January 16, 2022 at 02:32 PM



“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Marva Lou Walker.



January 14, 2022 at 05:15 PM

JA

“ I have so many memories of Grandma and choosing one is hard. But I think the first one that pops in my head was bring your child to work day.

I was in the 7th grade and Grandma was working nights as a nurse supervisor. She had gotten permission to bring me for her whole shift. We arrived at the hospital around 9 or 10 pm and I followed her around as she took care of patients. I listened to her coach one nurse on compassion and how to show it towards a man passing a stone. I had to stay in the hall while they visited this patient but I can tell you I had never heard noises like that before. I watched her chart and filled out my assignments in between following her from one station to another. But at one point in the night we visited the NICU. It was time to visit a baby that they had nicknamed peanut. He was so small and alone in his bed. She had me sit down in a rocking chair and then passed him to me. She explained that he needed some love and cuddles and that tonight it was my job to do that. I just remembered being amazed at how tiny he was and how hard he must have to fight to stay alive. That moment made a huge impact on me. I think about that little guy to this day and wonder what he is up to.

Life is precious. I think she wanted me to see how fragile it is.

By 7 am the next morning I was so so tired. I tried hard to stay awake while we set at the desk and she did her end of shift hand off. Looking around I noticed how the other nurses were giggling at how hard I had to fight off sleep. Grandma took me home and we went to bed. I felt so special that day and several days after.

Jennifer Anderson - January 13, 2022 at 10:20 PM