



Wanda Elizabeth Hunter

June 4, 1933 - June 11, 2021

Wanda passed away on June 11, 2021, in Corvallis, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She laid down for an afternoon nap and went peacefully in her sleep.

Wanda will be remembered for her love of life, her compassion for others, her love of family and friends and the selfless giving of her time and energy to anyone in need. She was a beloved daughter, mother, wife, aunt, grandmother and friend, and she enriched the lives of those around her.

Wanda was born in 1933 to John Willis and Iva Stewart Willis. She was the next to youngest of eight girls born to John Willis. She is preceded in death by her parents and all sisters except one. She is survived by her sister Joan DenHartog, her children Michael Parker and Kathleen Gerke, and her grandchildren Jordan Harrington and Elizabeth Harrington. She also had many extended family members. Several nieces describe her as their "favorite aunt".

Wanda always loved music, and was very proficient on the piano. In addition, she played guitar, lead the church choir, and often sang solos at the churches she was involved in throughout her life. She was a loving Christian woman, who stayed involved with her church families even when outside of church activities. Within the church she would volunteer to lead a women's group, or act as church secretary. In her years in Corvallis, she was an active and committed member of the Christian Science church and nurtured friendships with the other members, several of whom visited her and spent time with her right until the end of her life.

She touched the lives of young people as a teaching assistant for students who needed some extra help, and also helped lead her church's youth group during the years her children were not yet adults. She opened her home for youth group meetings, and made many happy memories with the young people, touching their lives with love and laughter. In later years, she volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club in Corvallis, assisting with their office tasks.

During holidays, friends and family would look forward to Wanda's special treats, including her delicious bran muffins, dilly bread, and divinity candy. She loved cooking for get-togethers and often hosted holiday gatherings of family and friends at her home. Many people have treasured memories of those gatherings. The family members enjoyed

bringing friends to join in for a holiday, making those times even more precious.

Wanda's career included positions in banks and schools, and eventually she received her license to sell real estate. When she moved to Corvallis in 1978, she was hired by Town & Country Realty as a realtor, and eventually managed their extensive property management rentals. Her strong organizational skills and attention to detail made her excel in that position for many years. She made many friends through her years in real estate, and enjoyed her work. She remained active in real estate even after her official retirement.

For Wanda, there was no greater pleasure than spending time with the people she loved. She is missed beyond measure and will always live in our hearts and memories.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 21. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Wanda Elizabeth Hunter*



McHenry Funeral Home - July 20, 2021 at 10:38 AM

LH

Great video in her memory.

Lizz Harrington - July 21, 2021 at 01:34 PM

LH

“ *My grandma will be missed dearly by all of us*



Lizz Harrington - July 20, 2021 at 04:34 PM

MW

“ Wanda has been like family to us for many years. We first met in 1980 through square dancing, when her husband and my husband took a square dance calling class together, and called together for a club in Albany. Wanda had a lovely voice, and sometimes sang along in harmony to the singing calls. She sold us our first house (Hunter Hall Realty), and was a great friend. And when our kids came along, she befriended them as well (my youngest has fond memories of Wanda teaching her to cook). Dinners at her house were always special (I loved the parmesan on her green beans), and we enjoyed watching westerns with her, too. At church, I would often play the piano for Wanda when she sang the solo, and I remember one busy week about 5 years ago when my Dad was staying a few days at my house, but I needed to go to Wanda's to practice with her. I asked my Dad if he wanted to come, but he said no, so I told him I'd be back in a couple hours, and drove to Wanda's. Imagine my surprise when she opened the door, and it was a surprise birthday party! I was so surprised to see my church friends and my kids (some who no longer even lived in Corvallis), and a bit later, one daughter arrived with my Dad (she had gone back to get him when they saw he was not with me). I have often thought of Wanda conspiring with my kids - I think she loved it as much as they did! What a loving person, and what wonderful memories I have of her.

Mary Jo Willis - July 20, 2021 at 03:07 PM

MW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Jo Willis - July 20, 2021 at 02:38 PM

MJ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Jo - July 20, 2021 at 02:30 PM

MP

“ This is a shot of my Mom and I singing together at the piano with my friend Howard. We always shared a love of music and singing together



Mikel Parker - July 19, 2021 at 08:58 PM

SL

“ Wanda and I got to know each other through church in Corvallis. We served on the Board together twice and, for three years, Wanda was first reader while I was second reader. (Members are elected readers to lead the services in Christian Science churches.) As we prepped for Sunday each week, we would talk about what was inspiring us, and we'd also just talk about family and music. I feel grateful for those conversations. I always appreciated her kindness, humor, and curiosity.

Stacey Lee - July 18, 2021 at 12:02 AM

EA

“ Wanda was a shining light at Corvallis Christian Science Church for over 40 years. Her sparkle, her giggle, her inclusive love, and the endless ways she reached out to others in need set a high standard for us all to follow. Wanda served in just about every capacity at the church over the years, including, of course, as Soloist and Pianist with her wonderful love of music. She is missed! But we also know the bond of love we share is unbroken. Wanda, we thank you, we honor you, we are forever grateful for all the times we've shared.



Ellen Austin - July 06, 2021 at 08:25 PM

PF

“ I worked with Wanda at Town & Country Realty. What an amazing person she was. She helped me to start my management company. I think of her often. I give the credit to Wanda that began my future.

Patricia Fawver - June 22, 2021 at 11:16 PM