



Eunice Mary Ball

April 23, 1919 - September 6, 2020

Eunice Mary Ball left her earthly home to be in the presence of her Lord and Savior on September 7, 2020. Mom was born to Matthew Nealey and Sadie (Baker) Nealey in Chesaw, WA. on April 23, 1919, the youngest of two older siblings. Her education started in Plaza, WA and she graduated from Rosalia, WA. class of '37. Then Mom graduated with a degree in education from Eastern Washington College of Education in Cheney, WA.

> Her student teaching training involved catching a bus in Spokane and riding to Incheium daily. It was during these long rides she met and started dating a music student, Robert Ball, who she later married on June 18, 1943. Before their marriage mom spent two years teaching home economics in the Pullman school district.

> In 1955 when the family moved to Soap Lake. Mom, who had been a stay at home mom, started teaching again. Her mother, Grandma Sadie, came to live with the family to help out with child care. Mom was hired to be the new high school Home Economics and girls PE teacher along with Dad being hired as the band teacher. This was only after Madeline McNamara convinced the school board to take a risk on hiring them after a previous bad experience with a husband and wife in the same school building. Mom finally retired in 1978 after 23 years of teaching at Soap Lake High School.

> In addition to academics at Soap Lake High School, she also believed in students being involved in service and social activities. She was the adviser for the ASB officers. She also started the high school Pep Club and girls drill

team. She also added support to our Dad and his high school band activities. Mom also was active in the Faith Lutheran church in Soap Lake before its closure.

> Retirement allowed her time to travel and become more involved with her grandchildren and socialize with past colleagues. She was also active in keeping up with her past student's lives and communicating with them especially during the Christmas holidays when she would receive and respond to hundreds of Christmas cards and letters. The last ten years have been a challenge for her due to limiting communication with others because of dementia, loss of sight and hearing. But she always maintained a positive attitude and was a joy to be around. Mom's 100th birthday celebration was a memorable time for all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to celebrate the life of such a special person.

> Mom is survived by her sons, Michael (Cathie) and Robbin (Robin) and daughter Pam McDonald, 10 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Robert Ball, parents, sister and brother, grand daughter Desiree McDonald, and daughter in-law Lilli Ball and son-in-law Tim McDonald.

Rest in Peace Mom, Love Michael, Robbin and Pam

> At this time no formal service or memorial is planned due to COVID restrictions.

Tribute Wall

DR

“Eunice left a legacy of love, inspiration and leadership to all her family and friends. She was the heart of Soap Lake High School. She attended many class reunions through the years and was loved and revered by us all. Eunice inspired me to go the extra mile as a teacher/coach/ principal because she always did. God bless her family, and know that she left a wide swath of friends and students who will always remember her fondly.
Dan Roche

Dan Roche - September 14, 2020 at 02:37 PM

CL

“Mrs. Ball made high school fun. She was involved with just about everything at Soap Lake High.



Cheryl Lambe - September 13, 2020 at 11:06 PM

JA

“So sorry to hear of her passing. She's a great lady and was a wonderful friend and neighbor to my parents. I will always remember her wind chimes on the back patio. Condolences to the family, I hope you find comfort in the many wonderful memories of her.

Julia (Jensen) Anderson

Julia Anderson - September 12, 2020 at 10:42 PM

BH

“ One of America’s great ladies. Always a fun time to be in her presence. Great to see her at many of our 65 reunion activities, especially the dinners. Many good memories!! Bill Harrington

Bill Harrinhyon - September 12, 2020 at 09:35 PM

DS

“ The passing of a true inspiration for so many of us, she will be remembered. My home ec teacher, mother of my dear friend, Pam, and so much more and so many memories. One of our favorites was Eunice sending cash along with Pam to buy dinner for four on our girl's weekends. In return she was always happy to get a bag of candy--usually horehound hard candy. She loved school reunions and was usually one of the last to leave--she loved 'her kids'. Thank you, Eunice, for teaching us to cook, sew, march in a straight line, laugh, be loyal and loving. Heaven is rejoicing to have you home!



Debra Parmeter Still - September 12, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JL

“ I didn't know your mother, but I grew up in Ephrata. What an amazing life she had. I wish there was some way to share the wonderful stories of our neighbors. Just makes you appreciate their lives even more!

Joyce Sumrall LoParco - September 10, 2020 at 02:29 PM

MG

What an amazing teacher and person! When we moved here in 1961 Mrs. Ball became my Home Ec . teacher. She was a perfectionist, but what I didn't learn from my mom and grandmothers, I learned from her. She was also a good friend. For many years my dad was the only one who was allowed to work on their cars. She will be greatly missed.

Marilyn (Russell) Graffe - September 11, 2020 at 12:16 PM

JB

I had a class with Mrs. Ball in 1971 and yes she was a perfectionist but would instill in you that if you were going to do something, do it right and to the best of your abilities. While she was a strict teacher, you got the real sense that she did it with a loving heart and wanted only the best for you as one of her students. She was a wonderful lady and I am so glad I had the opportunity to know her in some small way. My deepest condolences to her entire family.

Jim Bessett - September 12, 2020 at 06:24 PM

BH

It is the end of an era. Mrs Ball passed and the walls of the Delancey Houghton Elementary School came down completely. I kinda feel like I have lived too long. My heart has a very empty spot right now. Mr and Mrs Ball came to Soap Lake about 1954-1956 school year. I was in Mr Savages 6th grade class. The Middle/High School was being built. This was a first time for Soap Lake, to have a High School. That 1956-1957 school had a Freshman and Sophomore class. Mrs Ball bonded with that group of girls. She became the teacher, leader, and mentor for every activity connected to the girls and the sports, the clubs and organizations. She guided the development of the Eagle Annual and the very first one is a treasure She had a collection of the Annuals through all of the years to present. She encouraged us to vote for blue and white for school colors; and Eagles for the mascot. She touched each of us personally when she taught us how to sew a straight seam; and to make a scrap book of what we would want to have for china, crystal, silverware, dining ware She brought sophistication to our lives. She was always kind; and she wore her heart on her sleeve. She remembered her students. My sister died 2005 and Mrs Ball sat in the cold January grave side service because she never forgot her.and we will never forget Mrs Ball She brought a higher quality of living for each of us to take from our high school experience. Bonnie Odegard Holt-Morehouse

Bonnie Odegard Holt=Morehouse - September 12, 2020 at 08:21 PM

TJ

A strong, strict, moral, compassionate lady and fierce in her advocacy and defense of students, especially her girls. She represented the very best in what a teacher should be.

Terry Johnson - September 14, 2020 at 01:29 PM