



## Marcia M Rau

August 7, 1936 - December 17, 2019

Marcia M. Rau was born August 7, 1936 in Eugene, OR. She was the daughter of Odyne and Kathryn (Seelye) Mathews. Marcia passed away on December 17, 2019 in Newberg from natural causes related to Alzheimer's disease.

Marcia graduated from Willamette High School in 1954. Marcia briefly attended Chico State College but ended up back in her hometown at the University of Oregon where she completed her Elementary Education Degree in 1958. Marcia started her career in Tokyo, Japan teaching third grade on a US Military Base. It was in Japan where she met and later married William Rau of Brainerd, Minnesota. They wed in July of 1961. They initially made their home in Minnesota before moving to Oregon in 1967. Bill and Marcia moved to a small farm in Cove Orchard where they began raising a family and a herd of Appaloosas. They divorced in 1983.

Marcia became the primary parent to her two treasured children Murray and Katrinka, shuttling them to practices, meets, games, sleepovers and weekend tournaments. Between hauling hay in the summers, filling the cellar with canned food for the winter or chopping wood in the fall for the wood stove, she always offered a welcoming home and a listening ear.

Marcia's parents raised their four children with a strong work ethic, pride in

being a good neighbor and most importantly the value of a kind-hearted practical joke. That philosophy stayed with Marcia throughout her life and career. She spent 46 years as an educator, 35 of those years with the McMinnville School District. Marcia played a pivotal role in many young lives with her engaging style of teaching. Marcia also served as President of the McMinnville Teacher's Association.

In her spare time, Marcia traveled around the world visiting over 20 countries with countless stories of new adventures and was quick to encourage those around her to go out and explore. She grew roses in her backyard and many lucky friends received beautiful bouquets all summer long. Marcia volunteered for Kids on the Block, taught piano lessons and loved singing in the Annual Christmas Cantata. Marcia played many instruments including the auto harp, organ and ukulele, but her true love was her piano that's been in the family for over 100 years. Her fingers danced across the ivory keys for an hour every day. Marcia also took flight lessons, read countless books, enjoyed sewing, gardening, writing and riding horses. She and her beloved horse Swanky Vera, rode over 100 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail. Marcia had three English Setters all of whom brought her great pleasure and joy.

Marcia is survived by her two children and their spouses; son Murray and wife Sue Rau of Yamhill, OR and daughter Katrinka and husband Jon Allred of Vancouver, WA. She is also survived by her brother Ralph and wife Ida Mathews of Edmonds, WA and sister-in-law Sylvia Mathews of Vancouver, WA. She is preceded in death by her brothers David and Richard Mathews.

As a teacher Marcia changed, shaped and positively affected the lives of many people in the Yamhill County area. A Celebration of Life is being held to honor Marcia on February 29th, 2020. For details on the Celebration of Life, please email Katrinka: [trefabrau@comcast.net](mailto:trefabrau@comcast.net). A private burial will be held at the Laurel Hill Pioneer Cemetery in Eugene, OR.

In honor of Marcia, donations may be made to: <https://www.givealittlefoundation.org/memorial-gifts.html>

We invite you to share your thoughts and fond memories with the family on this site.

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ *I wish I had done this research and found Mrs. Rau long before this. I was a 3rd Grade student in Miss Mathews class in Tokyo 1960-1961. I have fond memories of her before we left Japan in June 1961. We (her third grade class and parents) had a wedding shower for her and Bill before the end of the school year. I learned protocol to an engaged couple because of her wedding. You tell the groom congratulations, and the bride best wishes. Congratulations to the bride would sound like she caught the groom. The groom has snared the bride (a good catch) and best wishes on the bride leaving the comfort of her parental home and starting a new life with her groom. I have frequently spoken of Ms. Mathews and still remember her with great fondness. Steven Peters, October 21, 2025.*

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**Steven Peters** - October 22, 2025 at 04:08 AM



“ *What a sweet, kind lady....  
Being one of the "cove orchard" kids I can only say she was a special part of us growing up...many fond memories of her smile and letting us boys fill the barn with basketball memories, the hillside with games of war and of course the gravel road epic football games...  
To Murray and Katrinka my deepest condolences....and thank you for sharing her with us....RIP*

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**Brian Hall** - February 22, 2020 at 02:45 PM

HH

“ Mrs. Rau was my fifth grade teacher and one of my favorites. As the daughter of a teacher working in the same building, I spent many days after school helping in her classroom. She would tell me all kinds of stories and listen to mine. I fondly remember her playing the piano, sometimes mid-instruction, because she knew we needed a music break. She inspired me to love reading and pushed me to be better at it. I have a file full of projects, certificates, and pieces of art all written on or lovingly signed in her beautiful cursive handwriting. When I left for college, also at the U of O like Mrs. Rau, I had no idea what to study. I ended up taking a few education classes and eventually became a teacher in the McMinnville School District. When I thought about what kind of teacher I wanted to be like, Mrs. Rau was at the top of my list. I wanted to make kids feel special, inspired, and loved like she made me and so many other kids feel. Over the years, I have run into Mrs. Rau. Every time, I got a big hug and a million questions because she still cared about me like I was one of her kids. I strive to make my students feel that way now too because of Mrs. Rau.

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**Hayley Hook** - February 12, 2020 at 11:35 PM