



Marilyn Rita Murphy

May 29, 1938 - July 13, 2025

Marilyn Murphy (née Vanderzanden), beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. Born in Forest Grove, Oregon, Marilyn grew up in Roy as one of 13 children. Life on the family farm meant there was always someone to laugh and play with, and she fondly remembered the joyful chaos of growing up with so many siblings. She attended the local Catholic school and loved the spirited energy of farm life.

Marilyn met the love of her life, Montgomery “Monte” Murphy, on a blind date during her senior year of high school. They married on May 3, 1958, at St. Francis Catholic Church in Roy and shared 63 wonderful years together, raising five children: Jeffrey, Daniel, Cynthia, Christina, and Susan.

She began her career at the phone company in Portland and later worked in administration for the Beaverton School District, where her warmth and humor made her a favorite among students and staff.

After retirement, Marilyn and Monte set off on a grand adventure, traveling the country in four motorhomes. They visited 49 states—every one but Rhode Island—often retracing Monte’s former trucking routes. In 2015, they settled in Casa Grande, Arizona. Following Monte’s passing, Marilyn returned to Oregon to be near family.

Marilyn had a bright smile and an easy laugh that made others feel instantly welcome. She enjoyed gardening, dancing and roller skating with Monte, and spending time with friends, but her greatest passion was sewing. She created countless quilts for loved ones—some of them award-winning—that remain treasured keepsakes.

She was preceded in death by her husband Monte and their eldest son Jeffrey. Marilyn is survived by her children Daniel Murphy, Cynthia Knight, Christina Bongen, and Susan Leid; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Her adventurous spirit, generosity, and deep love for family leave a lasting legacy. She will be dearly missed.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Memorial Park

24235 NE Dayton Avenue
Newberg, OR 97132

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 9. 10:30 AM - 10:50 AM (PT)

St. Francis Catholic Church
15651 SW Oregon St.
Sherwood, OR 97140
church@stfrancissherwood.org

Memorial Mass

AUG 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Francis Catholic Church
15651 SW Oregon St.
Sherwood, OR 97140
church@stfrancissherwood.org

Tribute Wall

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“ I have loved my friendship with Marilyn (and Monte) since working side by side in HR in the Beaverton School District. Even though we lived far apart for many years, we talked on the phone, emailed and texted. Three things come to mind when I think of my dear friend: Her strong faith; love for her family; and THE BEST sense of humor. Marilyn’s wit, humor and common sense attitude was there until her dying day. I miss her dearly. Holly (and Kirt) Minnich

Holly - August 08, 2025 at 04:02 PM