



## Mary Luann Rieck

January 13, 1955 - September 17, 2019

God came and took Mary home on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, to her eternal rest after a long and arduous battle with bone marrow precancer. He sent her here for a short stay on January 13, 1955. She came into this world at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon to Boyd and Alice Bennett. She was their third child of an eventual four, preceded by Jim and then Kathy, and eventually followed by David. Mary's family moved to Kennewick, Washington when she was less than 1 year old. Her parents opened the first homeowner rental business in the Tri-Cities, and Mary, along with the other Bennett children, soon started what would turn into a lifelong involvement in and love for Bennett Rentals and the communities it serves.

From an early age, Mary took pride in what she did in a good way and loved deeply. After starting school, she proved to be an exceptional student but was somewhat shy. When she was in high school, one of her teachers insisted she try out for a play because of her aversion to public speaking. Her capabilities as an actress were phenomenal and she entered an acting career that lasted through the rest of her secondary schooling and propelled her into the pursuit of a bachelor's degree in drama at the Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. She would soon discover, however, that her Maker had plans for her life other than the theatrical stage.

Mary had chosen to follow Jesus when she was 13 years old. That decision and faith carried her through her time at Central, where she realized her life was meant for another path. She persevered through the subsequent difficulty of vocational change and attended Trend College and became a secretary at Hanford where she met her husband, Bob. After a whirlwind courtship, they were married on March 4, 1978. God blessed them with two amazing sons, Daniel and Bennett. Mary transitioned again from working at Hanford to embrace her true calling: Christian service, first to her family as a fulltime stay-at-home mom, and second to her community as a lifelong volunteer in many capacities.

Mary served the community through volunteering in classrooms at Badger Mountain Elementary and Parent Patrol at Richland High School with her husband. She served at

church through teaching Sunday school, volunteering at Vacation Bible School, and as a Stephen minister. She also attended Bible Study Fellowship, where she served as a group leader and a children's leader. She loved to bake cookies, make playdough for Sunday school and spend time with her family over home-cooked meals, telling stories and sharing life together. Throughout all she did, Mary was a fountain of emotional and practical support, spirituality, love, and wisdom and truth from the Bible. Her charity to others and support of community outreach events at Bethel Church further illustrated her total commitment to Jesus Christ.

Above all else, Mary made much of her Savior Jesus Christ and desired that others should know the salvation that is found in his Name. To her very last breath, she proved her conviction that there is no greater drama than His, and how she counted it her privilege to play the part He had given her in His ongoing story. Ask all who knew her, especially those closest to her, and they will tell you that she played her part very well.

Mary is survived by her husband, Bob; sons, Daniel (Camille) and Bennett; her mother, Alice; sister, Kathy; brothers, Jim and David (Pati); as well as several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at Bethel church on November 8, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, you can donate to the CBC Nursing program in the name of Mary Rieck. Donations can be made electronically at [columbiabasin.edu/foundation](http://columbiabasin.edu/foundation), or you can contact Anneke Rachinski by email at [arachinski@columbiabasin.edu](mailto:arachinski@columbiabasin.edu), by phone at 509.547.0511 ext. 2327, or by mobile phone at 720.998.6164.

# Events

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**NOV** **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

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Bethel Church

600 Shockley Rd, Richland, WA, US, 99352

# Comments

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“ Miss Mary Sunshine was my nickname for this beautiful woman. She truly brought sunbeams into the room where ever she entered. Mary’s love for the Lord was unbridled and made her someone I looked up to and wanted to emulate. We will miss you, Miss Mary Sunshine, but know Heaven was happy to greet you!

**Jo Givin** - November 08, 2019 at 03:20 PM

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“ Mary was such a giver & encourager. I had the privilege of knowing her through BSF. I ran into her in the grocery store, we got to talking and she stood right there in the aisle and prayed for me. That was Mary--a beautiful woman who served Jesus well.  
Melissa Macduff

**Melissa Macduff** - October 25, 2019 at 04:32 PM

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“ I am saddened to hear that Mary has passed away. I send my sincerest sympathy to you Bob, Daniel, Bennett and your families. Mary was the sweetest, kindest person filled with endless energy, thoughtfulness and creativity. When Daniel and Bennett were in my 5th Grade class at Badger Mountain, Mary tirelessly and joyfully put her many talents to work for our class countless times. And she made the best huge Ginger Molasses Cookies! I am keeping your family in prayer.

**Norene Eggers-Erlandson** - October 22, 2019 at 09:42 PM

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“ Mary was a dear, sweet saint. We mourn her passing with you. We rejoice that her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**David Cole** - October 22, 2019 at 02:21 PM

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“ Mary always had a big smile on her face. Her happiness and her love for Jesus were contagious. My last memory of Mary is so precious - it was the last time I saw her and it was at Bethel on Sunday morning. She was sitting up front with Bob and all throughout the worship song set, she had her arms raised high and was clearly worshipping and praising the Lord.

She was a beautiful woman inside and out and we are all better for having known her (and boy could she hug!) We miss you and we love you Mary!

**Mary Cole** - October 22, 2019 at 02:05 PM

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“ I am very sorry for the family's loss. Mary was very kind and thoughtful, she will be missed.

Tom James

**Tom James** - October 19, 2019 at 05:04 PM

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“ Bob, so sorry to hear about Mary. I have great memories of us working together when you and Mary were dating. She was always so upbeat. Heaven will be a better place with her there. May God give you and your family peace at this difficult time.  
Fen Simmons

**Fen Simmons** - October 19, 2019 at 12:56 PM



“ Mary was my Bsf leader in 2014, she was a comfort to me when my father died in 2015

**Maria McRae** - November 01, 2019 at 12:23 AM



“ " A thankful smile pours pleasant butterflies into a warm jar which lights the body for hours to come. It takes so little to catch those butterflies to light yourself and warm another soul at the same time." Mary was always so kind and caring. Her kindness was such a strength. "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see" - Mark Twain.  
Love you Mary!

Joyce Stark

**Joyce Stark** - November 13, 2019 at 01:18 AM