



Michelle Small

February 17, 1944 - May 30, 2019

Michelle Small (Holcomb), age 75, passed away on May 30, 2019 after a long illness. She is survived by her daughter, J'aime Ellen (Scott); granddaughters Allison Rose and Rachel Grace; her son, Jason Edward (Nicki); grandsons Payton James, Finnian Canfield, and Lachlan Reynolds; brother William (Vangie); sisters Cinda Magliolo (Reid Baumgartner), Nancy Baenziger (Walt), and Cathy Jasperson (Don). She was preceded in death by her husband, Jamie in 2005; father, Jesse H. Holcomb; mother, Robbie Lee Salter.

She was born February 17, 1944 in Borger, Texas. She graduated from North Texas University with a degree in English. She started her education at Washington State University where fate stepped in on October 16 when a Kappa Kappa Gamma sister set her up with a handsome Phi Delta Theta. Their adventure together began in Idaho, taking them to Lewisville, Texas, then to Boulder, Colorado and Bellingham. Their life together was one of great love and joy. Together, they were the example for their children of loving parents and partners.

Michelle was a beloved teacher in Longmont, Colorado, teaching English at Northeast Junior High and Skyline High School. She was nominated for Colorado's Teacher of the Year. She and Jamie retired to Bellingham in 1999. She joined the Assistance League of Bellingham and worked for many years overseeing Operation School Bell program. In 2011, along with 5 friends,

started the local nonprofit, Bellingham Giving Circle, to support homeless high school students complete their education in the Bellingham and Blaine School Districts. In this endeavor, she was awarded the Bellingham School District's 2017 Promise Community Service Award. In 2015, she was awarded the Molina Healthcare Community Champions Award.

Throughout her life, her passion for travel took her to all corners of the earth, from the Great Wall of China to the Palace Square in Saint Petersburg, to scuba diving and sailing through beautiful blue waters.

As a wife, mother, sister, teacher and friend, her generosity will always be remembered. Mom, you are at peace and we love you and will miss you always.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bellingham Giving Circle.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday June 4, 2019 at 12:30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with burial following at Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham. Afterwards, there will be a gathering to celebrate her life.

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I’m only learning now of Mrs. Small’s passing. Aa student at Skyline High School, Mrs. Small was my English and Yearbook teacher, and at the top of my list of all-time favorite teachers! I will always remember that laugh! It was infectious! Few teachers taught with such passion, vision, and encouragement for her students to excel beyond their own desires. So unique she was. For many years following graduation in 1982, I always made a point to visit Skyline when I returned to Longmont to visit family. Mrs. Small was always the first one I sought out. She will be missed.

David Manuel - October 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Having worked with Michelle as the librarian at Skyline High School I will say that Michelle was the best teacher I have ever worked with. Not only could she get her Advanced Placement students fired up to do welll on their placement test, but she had the ability to encourage and bring out the best in students who were not as capable. She made those students believe in themselves, and because of that achieve more than they had thought they could. Not only was she a great English teacher, but when the school needed an art teacher and yearbook sponsor Michelle excelled in those roles also For those of you who did not know Michelle as a teacher I’m sure you have no problem imagining her being a great one.

Elaine Morse - May 30, 2019 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ May the Grace of God give you comfort in your time of grief. Michelle was a beloved member of the BHS class of 1962.

Wayne Renfroe - May 30, 2019 at 12:00 AM

FP

“ *These accomplishments sound exactly like something Michelle would do, She was the best, I remember in High School a lot of us going over to her house to study, she was always the helper and a magnificent human being, rest in peace my friend, you are with God now.*

Fred Payne - May 30, 2019 at 12:00 AM