



## Marilyn Dexter

October 24, 2016

Marilyn A. McCollum Dexter passed peacefully in her home October 24, 2016. She enjoyed a very rich life as a wife, mother, teacher, and real estate investor. Marilyn was born, December 31, 1922, the daughter of Lee and Ora McCollum in Violet Hill, Arkansas. She was raised in the area and graduated from high school in 1940. Upon graduation she was fortunate enough to attend Arkansas College until moving to Wenatchee, Washington with her parents who were migrant fruit workers. While attending a dance at the local Elks Club she met her lifelong mate, Mervin A Dexter and they married in 1945. Once married they made a home in Rock Island, WA and not only raised apples on a 10-acre orchard, but brought four children, three sons and one daughter into this world.

In 1965, Mervin was transferred to Darigold Dairy in Moses Lake and Marilyn's lifelong dream of becoming a business teacher led her to enroll at Big Bend Community College. She continued her studies at Central Washington University receiving a Bachelor of Arts, Master's Degree and Principal Credentials and was able to begin a wonderful career "teaching Moses Lake how to type!" extending 25 years. She loved her students as well as teaching and often said "she was chasing ignorance away". Yet even while pursuing this career she continued being a faithful wife and loving mother. She loved to bake delicious pies with her favorite being apple. Often she would wake early to bake two pies prior to going to church for a family potluck following the service. She continued her pie baking even in later years while wintering in Yuma, Arizona where friends and family enjoyed her famous lemon meringue pie. Her southern hospitality was so appreciated as she entertained family and friends for large gatherings in her home.

On a more personal note, besides her unconditional love for her children, Marilyn loved reading, garage sales (always having an eye out for good books), investing in fixer upper houses and giving them new life as rental investments. She was never one to shy away from hard work. She faithfully attended the Assembly of God Church in Moses Lake.

Marilyn loved and lived her faith. She delighted in her Lord and his love offering of the "free gift" of salvation. Her faith fostered her extremely optimistic and positive attitude. She

firmly believed that according to the Bible, she could do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthened her. She would say “I believe that there is no use in suffering before bad things happen so I look at the world through rose colored glasses and enjoy all things, then if things don’t turn out beautiful I will deal with it at that time.”

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Mervin of 71 years, son Forrest (Debra) Dexter of Veradale, WA, Dennis (Lori) Dexter of E. Wenatchee, Karene “Kerri” (Dennis) Richins and Kris (Teresa) Dexter all of Moses Lake. She also was blessed with 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Also, surviving her is a sister, Lanelle McCollum (Allan), St. George, Utah and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed.

With the faithful assistance of family and private caregivers she was given the gift of remaining happily in her home with Mervin until her passing. This in home care journey was with the support of Valentina, Lydumyla, Jina, Inna, Marianna, Angela, Dennis Dexter, Dennis Richins and Ryan Richins. And a special thank you to Assured Hospice for their service. The family is forever grateful for their help.

Memorial donations may be made to Moses Lake High School, Business Education Department, 803 E Sharon Avenue, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at the Assembly of God Church, 431 E Brown Ave., Moses Lake. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at <http://www.kayserschapel.com> Arrangements are in care of Kayser’s Chapel & Crematory.

# Cemetery

---

## Evergreen Memorial Park

1301 10th St Ne  
East Wenatchee, WA,

# Events

---

**OCT**   **Service**                      02:00PM

**27**

---

Assembly at Moses Lake

431 E. Brown Ave., Moses Lake, WA, US

# Comments

---



“ Mrs. Dexter was one of my most influential teachers. She was tough on us, but I retained much of what she taught which was far beyond typing/keyboarding skills. She helped me get my first office job while I was in high school and knowing how high her standards were it was meaningful to me and I have thought on this fondly over the years as I reflect on my success and career. My thoughts are with you all and may she rest in eternal peace. All my love. Angie (Favero) Clark

**Angie Clark** - October 27, 2016 at 10:01 AM

---



“ Our heart felt condolence to all Dexter family . We love you all in JESUS NAME . Thank you JESUS ALMIGHTY GOD FOR OUR HOPE IN YOU WE will see Mrs . M . Dexter in heaven

**Mary Lou Cedillo** - October 29, 2016 at 01:17 PM

---



“ Sending sympathy to daughter Kerri; who deeply loved, cared for, and cherished her mom Marilyn. May your loving memories bring comfort and peace. Love, Leslie Piper

**Leslie Piper** - October 26, 2016 at 11:00 PM

---



“ So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Thinking of and praying for your family.

**Kathy and Ken Payne** - October 26, 2016 at 09:04 PM

---



“ Kerri and all the Dexter family our thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of Marilyn. She was a very special lady and in the 12 years of our morning walks we shared laughter, recipes, remodeling projects, and of course "Family Stories" (she was so proud of her family). I am so blessed to have known Marilyn. May God hold you all in the palm of his hand. Fran & Boyd Grant

**Fran Grant** - October 26, 2016 at 10:24 AM

---



“ Amy Ellestad lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Dexter



**Amy Ellestad** - October 25, 2016 at 10:05 PM

---



“ Who didnt have Mrs. Dexter for typing? I am sorry to hear of her passing. My prayers go out to her family.

**Tanya Kanoff** - October 25, 2016 at 06:48 PM

---



“ Tanya Kanoff lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Dexter



**Tanya Kanoff** - October 25, 2016 at 06:47 PM



“ I'm so very sorry Kerri. She sounds like a wonderful women and she was so fortunate to have you to care for her. Cherish the memories. Love, Juli Miller

**juli miller** - October 25, 2016 at 08:38 PM