



Artis Ann Ballinger

January 18, 1935 - July 19, 2025

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Artis Ann Ballinger was born on January 18, 1935, to Arthur and Geralda Herk in North Dakota. She grew up on the family farm in Barnes County, and her only sibling, sister Bonnie, was born a few years later. During the winter months, the family often lived in Bismarck, where Arthur served in the North Dakota Legislature.

Artis graduated from high school and went on to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. While at Concordia, she met the love of her life, Robert “Ty” Ballinger. They were married in 1954 and shared 65 years of marriage until Ty’s passing in 2024.

In 1961, Artis and Ty moved to Montana, where Ty earned his Master of Arts degree. The following year, they settled in Moses Lake, Washington, where they would live for the next 63 years and raise their family.

Artis was an active and devoted member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. She was especially involved in the women’s group, where she often organized luncheons and events. A talented pianist and organist, Artis regularly played for church services and gatherings.

Artis had a love for gardening and birdwatching, and she delighted in decorating her home for every holiday. She worked as a school librarian for the Moses Lake School District, where she shared her love of books and learning with countless children. After retiring from the school district, she worked at the Town Shoppe, where, as she often joked, she spent more money on clothes than she made.

Artis was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ty, and her parents, Arthur and Geralda Herk. She is survived by her sister Bonnie Carlson of Palm Desert, California. Artis is also survived by her children: Jeri Laam (Rick) of Orofino, Idaho; Jay Ballinger (Renee) of Moses Lake, Washington; and Kami Thompson (John) of Portland, Oregon. She also leaves behind cherished grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Artis lived a full life grounded in faith, family, and service. She will be remembered for her grace, creativity, and the warmth she brought to those around her.

Services for Artis will be held at Moses Lake Presbyterian Church at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 16, 2025. A reception will follow the service at the Riviera Room at Enzo Italian Restaurant, 1345 S Pioneer Way, Moses Lake.

Previous Events

Service

AUG **16**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church
1142 W. Ivy
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

KB

“ You taught me that caring is another way of loving, and in the short time we had the chance to share together, I learned so many things from you! Thanks.
Heaven shines brighter today, because a wise and faithful woman has gone back home.

Kiara B - October 16, 2025 at 10:36 PM

LO

“ Artis was one of a kind! What a dear lady. She was a friend to all. I am sorry we will be out of town for her service, but she will be in our thoughts as you celebrate her life on August 16. I remember her fondly and she was a good friend to my mother. I am sure she is in heaven now rejoicing with Ty and her other friends! Cheers to a great lady who lived a great life!
Laurie Odegaard

Laurie Odegaard - August 11, 2025 at 02:36 PM

CL

“ We will always remember Artis (and TY) for their kindness towards us. Our family will for ever cherish the time we were welcomed in their home in Moses Lake for a summer vacation trip and for showing up to a basketball game when the team played in the area. Condolences to the family. May God comfort you all with the memories of your mother & father. They are together again, :)
The Lees

Cynthia Lee - August 05, 2025 at 11:10 PM

RT

“Granny,
Every time we came to stay with you, you’d take me early in the morning to get “coffee”, which was really hot cocoa. And every time we left, you’d stand on the very edge of the street and wave goodbye until we couldn’t see you anymore. Those moments made me feel loved and seen. That is how I will remember you. Waving goodbye to me with a big smile on your face. I love you and I hope you are singing at the top of your lungs in the hosts of saints.

Rachel Thompson - August 05, 2025 at 10:28 PM

KT

“Mom, I really hope you are soaring like a beautiful free bird. A blue one.

Kami J Thompson - August 05, 2025 at 10:27 PM

BG

“What a classy lady, always sweet and engaging. The Ballinger family has been a good part of my 40 years in Moses Lake. Sympathies and warm thoughts of comfort to all.

Benjamin Getz - August 05, 2025 at 01:13 PM

LA

“God bless you Artis. You’ll never know how much I learned from you in the short time I knew you. Sending prayers of comfort for the Ballinger family. Laurie Ahmann

Laurie Ahmann - August 03, 2025 at 01:18 AM