



## Delores Elaine Wheat

January 20, 2026

Delores Elaine Wheat danced into heaven on January 20, 2026, in Moses Lake, Washington, with her daughters, Cindy Gender and Susie Courtright, and son-in-law John Courtright by her side.

She was born in 1935 in Terry, Montana, to Pauline and Gottlieb Naasz. She was the eldest of three children, Joan Naasz-Childers(deceased) and Reuban Naasz.

Dee was married to Roy "Buck" Wheat (deceased) for 64 years. They had 4 children: Jay, Scot (deceased), Cindy, and Susie. They have 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was a curious and active little one, speaking only German until she was in kindergarten.

The family moved to Yakima, Washington, in 1942, where she attended school and graduated from Yakima High School. She enjoyed many school activities, including playing the clarinet in band, majorette activities, and attending many dances and other activities with friends and her many cousins. Dee began working as a secretary and bookkeeper at Yakima City Hall during her senior year of High School. She was very proud of this first "real" job; she truly enjoyed working with numbers just like her father, and this job helped the family financially during very tough years after her father's heart attacks. The extra money also enabled her to travel to California and the Oregon coast, as

well as Chicago, IL, to visit family.

In 1957, Dee was introduced by friends to the love of her life, Roy 'Buck' Wheat, on a blind date. She fell in love, and they were married in 1958. She remembers that he had to be a great guy because he carried a photo album of his family around with him in his pickup.

They moved to Prosser, Washington, later in 1958, where Buck started a flying operation called Aircraft Applicators, Inc. While Buck was busy crop dusting, flight instructing, and running an air ambulance, Dee kept the books for their business and tended to the mini farm, with a prune orchard and farm animals, along with three of their children in tow. Buck and Dee's 2 younger brothers lived with them during the summer months to assist as flag boys with the crop dusting.

She was a significant support to her husband in all their many activities in Prosser, including helping to build a Ferris Wheel and "box ride" for the Prosser City Park. They were very active in the Prosser Jaycees.

In 1962, they were offered an opportunity to lease the Richland airport and created Richland Flying Service, where Buck's dad and brother Bill joined them. She continued to do the bookkeeping for this business again while managing a household with three busy children.

Dee was a woman of faith and raised her little ones to know Jesus, memorize their Bible verses, as well as pray for her husband daily as he was flying the skies either for flight instructing, aerobatics, many skydivers, gliders, Hanford Project scientists, or air ambulance. Together, they also put on several air shows at the Richland airport. She also became quite adventurous as Buck flew the family to nearly everything they did. The family spent many weekends attending fly-ins throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, gathering with other flying enthusiasts and friends.

In 1969, they moved the family to Moses Lake, Washington, so that Buck could be a flight instructor at Big Bend Community College.

The first year they were here, Dee took the opportunity to welcome a Japanese agricultural exchange student to live with the family, and they stayed in touch for many years. It was a great cultural experience for all. She continued to do bookkeeping for all of Buck's flying side businesses, as well as taking part-time jobs at a florist, ceramic shop, and church volunteer. She and Buck also enjoyed the house being full of kids after school, athletic games, or weekends, most of them called them mom and dad. She loved supporting her family by cheering on the sidelines in sports or cheerleading and all of her children's successes. She was a great listener and person to lean on in difficult times with words of wisdom and prayer. Before retiring, Dee worked in banking for many years as a teller, branch manager, secretary, and eventually a Personal Banker.

Through the years, she continued to enjoy outdoor adventures: skiing, traveling, gardening, golfing, long walks, and time spent with family and dear friends.

In 1980, Buck retired from BBCC, and they were able to move back to Yakima to help with her parents.

In 1990, they returned to Moses Lake and lived here for 6 months out of the year to be with daughter Susie, husband John and their 4 boys and had a winter home in Sun City West Arizona to be near eldest daughter Cindy and 2 children. While in Arizona, Dee golfed and joined a Women's golf club where she enjoyed playing with a good friend from their Prosser days. For many years Dee and Buck thoroughly enjoyed being volunteers at the Mariners spring training along with the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale Arizona. One year at the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale, Tiger Woods actually met them in passing

along the golf course and laughed at “Buck Wheat’s” name tag and asked if he wanted his Phoenix Open hat signed, of course Buck said you bet.

Dee loved to serve at their local church in various capacities for events, senior luncheons, and even in the church library.

They enjoyed traveling to Buck’s Air Force reunions all over the United States. She was quite the planner and travel agent for these events and many sightseeing adventures.

They went on numerous vacations with their children and grandchildren, many cruises with family and friends, and many trips to Florida to visit their oldest son, Jay, and his family. They received a special invitation to tour and attend NASA’s final launch of the Atlantis Space Shuttle from one of Bucks flight students, who was the Pilot for this final mission.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gottlieb and Pauline Naasz, her sister JoAnn, her husband Buck Wheat, and their son Scot Wheat.

Dee is survived by her daughters, Cindy Gender of Peoria, Arizona, Susie Courtright and husband John of Moses Lake, Washington, son Jay Wheat and wife Recheane of Melbourne, Florida, daughter-in-law Linda and husband Mark of Wickenburg, Arizona, and her brother Reuban Naasz and wife Carole of Bothell, Washington.

Her heart’s joy was to spend time with her children, 7 grandchildren, and her 10 great-grandchildren. She loved each one dearly and enjoyed attending many of their singing, dancing, and sporting events, being fully immersed in their lives. They all loved their Gramma Dee and will miss her!

The family would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Pimentel Jahns, Dr. Thomas, and Dr. Turner for their exceptional care, along with the many nurses

who cared for her at Samaritan Hospital over the past several months, and to Assured Hospice for their compassionate care and guidance to our family.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to all the staff who took such compassionate care of our dear mom at The Monroe House. You all have a special place in our hearts, and we thank you for walking beside, loving, and caring for our mom. You truly helped make these past several months so much easier for her.

A special thank you to The Moses Lake Presbyterian Church for your love and support of our dear mom and our whole family.

She has finished her race and now rests in the loving arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ, where there is no more pain, only joy everlasting.

Memorials can be made to the Scot Wheat Memorial Fund at Big Bend Community College Foundation, 7662 Chanute St NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

A celebration of life will be held on February 14th at 11:00 am at the Moses Lake Presbyterian Church, 1142 W Ivy Ave., Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 11:00 AM (PT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Today I'm remembering my Great Aunt Dee - and how truly fitting her name was. She was great in the quiet ways that matter most. Whenever I saw her, she carried a warmth and steadiness that made you feel at ease. She was beautiful inside and out, devoted to her husband and family, and lived her life with kindness and grace that didn't need attention to be seen. She simply lived it.

*Proverbs 31 speaks of a good woman being worth more than diamonds. Aunt Dee reflected that to me - not in perfection, but in goodness, faithfulness, and the way she cared for others throughout her life.*

*I wish I had known her more closely, but I'm grateful for the example she was and the goodness she brought into the world. I can only hope to carry forward even a small part of that goodness in my own life.*

*Rest peacefully, Aunt Dee. You were deeply loved and will be remembered that way.*

*With love,  
Sherry Maxx*

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**Sherry Maxx** - February 14 at 12:43 PM

PH

“ Great Aunt Dee was one of the sweetest, kindest, and most humble women of God I have ever known. She will be so deeply missed. She was always one of my favorite people to see and visit with at every wedding, birthday, and family reunion.

*I am so grateful I had the chance to see her 5 months ago. When my sister asked me to ride with her from Snohomish to Moses Lake for a business trip, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to visit Aunt Dee. I will forever cherish that last visit and the memory of her insisting on walking us to the door, refusing to leave the window and waving goodbye to us until we drove completely out of sight.*

*While I can no longer see her waving from that window, I take comfort knowing she has been welcomed home with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Rest in peace, Aunt Dee; you are forever in our heart*

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**Patricia Kohanek (Perry) Host** - February 07 at 12:00 AM

PH

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**Patricia Kohanek (Perry) Host** - February 06 at 11:55 PM

JW

“ I was blessed to be a Monroe Care neighbor since moving here last Winter. Dee was loved by all because of her friendly nature and good sense of humor. She is missed! What a blessing to see how her family loved and cared for her❤️ Aunt Janet

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**Janet White** - January 28 at 12:56 PM

LO

“ Our love and hugs to the family. Dee was such a lovely person. The loss of this special lady will be felt by all. She was beautiful inside and out. May your hearts be light, and we know she is in a better place, free of pain. Cheers to a life well lived. Great obituary, what an honor for you all to call her mother, Gramma Dee, sister, wife, and friend.

Laurie Odegaard - January 27 at 07:01 PM

JW

I joined Dee at Monroe Care last Winter as Aunt to her son-in-law John Courtright and his wife Susie. Dee was much loved by family and fellow residents and staff. She will be missed. We take comfort she has joined Buck and son Scot in heaven

Janet White - January 28 at 02:03 PM

CS

Auntie Dee had quite a life! She touched so many people with her welcoming smile and spirit. I have so many fond family memories. She will be missed but I know she is happy to be with the Lord!

Cheryl Sayed - February 05 at 11:09 PM

SM

I had the privilege of attending Aunt Dee's 90th birthday celebration last year, and again seeing her this past summer, where she was still filled with love and gratitude, reflecting on a life beautifully lived. She cherished her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and felt deeply blessed by the family she helped build. Her life was a testament to faith, love, and devotion to our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. We were truly blessed to have known her, an angel to so many, and her love and gentle spirit will remain with us always.

Sherry Maxx - February 06 at 12:26 AM