



Mary B. Cunnington

September 6, 1939 - August 28, 2011

Mary Cunnington went to be with her Lord, Sunday August 28th, 2011, after a courageous, twelve-year battle with cancer. Holy Rosary will be prayed at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at 6 pm on Thursday September 1, 2011. Mass of a Christian Burial will be held at 1 pm Friday, September 2, 2011 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Guarding Angels Cemetery, 2595 Road L N.E. Moses Lake. Viewing will be from 10 am to 4 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 31st and Sept. 1st at Kayser's Chapel. Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

She was born in Overland, Mo. September 6th, 1939, to Mary Edith Lindgren and her husband. The family moved to Richland, WA to work at the Hanford project. Mary attended school in the Tri-City area until her family moved to Walla Walla in 1949.

She married the love of her life Donald B. in Lewiston, Idaho in 1955. Mary and Don raised and loved six children, Debra (Chuck) Lumpkin, Dawni (Lance) Williams, Daniel (Linda) Cunnington, Jeanie Cunnington, David (Cheryl) Cunnington and Dyan Ford. Mary loved life, her community but most of all she loved her grandchildren Dylan, David E, Danielle, Dara, Donald B II, Isaac, Jacob, Hailey, Sheena, Kamen and Braxton. Mary also loved all of her great-grandchildren Ariana, Adaleigh, Beckett, Nevon, Kaedyn, Azuriea and Lillian. Mary was preceded in death by her mother, Sister Brenda, and her son

Daniel.

Many lives were touched by Mary during her twenty-five years at the Parks and Recreation department in Moses Lake. Her many endeavors included being the proud coach of the Manta Rays, orchestrating the Spring Fling, Community Days, and acting as the voice of the community as the host of the Park and Rec Radio Show. Mary managed Swedberg Pool and in 1995 she helped make the Moses Lake Family Aquatic Center a reality and a success. Mary's deep love of children was also evident by her leadership in community events such as the Hersey track meet, Special Olympics and the generations of children she taught to swim.

After the eruption of Mount Saint Helens, Mary was instrumental in the rescue of many of the travelers affected by the blast. Through her involvement with the American Red Cross she opened the CCD center to house 525 people, providing medication, food, shelter and fun to those in need.

Mary retired from the Parks and Recreation department in 1998 to assist her husband in building their dream cabin in the mountains where the entire family gathers each year to celebrate the holidays.

Mary was deeply involved with her Catholic faith where she taught religious education from 1962-2007.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made in Mary's name to the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 1337, Moses Lake, WA 98837, Our Lady of Fatima building fund or Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, 1555 S. Pilgrim St., Suite C, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Visitation

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories
831 S. Pioneer Way
Moses Lake, WA

Service

SEP 1. 6:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Holy Rosary)
200 North Dale Road
Moses Lake, WA

Service

SEP 2. 1:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church (Mass of Christian Burial)
200 N. Dale Rd
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

RV

“ A treasure, a pillar an icon."Moses Lake's Mom" all describe Mary, one of my favorite memories was when she put together the "Spring Fling" I believe it was the day school let out and she organized a big party at McCosh Park with live bands, egg tossing contest, hay bales full of candy, gunny sack races...she was a Pied Piper with her bull horn and red and white striped one piece bathing suit!! thanks for all the love you gave Mary.

Rich Victor - May 19, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Cunnington family. Your loss is great! She was an amazing person and will be missed by all.##imported-begin##Mindi Stoker##imported-end##

September 13, 2011 at 12:05 AM



“ I recently moved to Yakima last month and just heard of the passing of Mrs. Cunnington. I remember back in 6th grade she had a boys and girls party at her house and there were lots of the kids from the Knolls Vista neighborhood. She made us play boy/girl games. Us Treacy twins were very shy back then but her enthusiasm for us kids was fantastic. That was almost 44 years ago.To this day I remember that party and how Mrs. Cunnington was such a shining star and made us kids feel welcomed. She will be missed by all.A former Knolls Vista kid and the Barney half of the Treacy twins.##imported-begin##Barney Treacy##imported-end##

September 09, 2011 at 09:26 PM



“ Everything I know about making a home,being a family,and being a mom I learned from my Auntie Mary and my time in her home.Love you Auntie.##imported-begin##Barb Hawkins##imported-end##

September 08, 2011 at 12:14 PM



“ Dear Don and Family,
We hold you all in loving thoughts and prayers. I have two special memories of Mary. One was her encouraging and warm chant of "Vanilla Gorilla! Vanilla Gorilla!" as our kids began their first attempts at a crawl stroke in the McCosh pool. The other is a picture of Mary with a big aluminum bat in her hand using it to pound on a bleacher step as we cheered you, Ray, and other players of the old Pay n Pak team at Larson Field!! She always did everything with so much enthusiasm and spirit-a life well lived.##imported-begin##Bev and Ray Moore##imported-end##

September 07, 2011 at 06:22 PM



“ Dear Cunnington Family
Mary was so dear to us in so many ways. Her love for all kids of the community was felt by her compassion and strong uplifting spirit that she had. We pray for you and yours and am so grateful to have known a small part of this wonderful woman. She was truly a "Helper to Mankind" and will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate to have met her. Wish we could have been there but know we are standing with you in spirit.##imported-begin##Jeff & Sharon Zornes##imported-end##

September 06, 2011 at 08:47 PM



“ I think we all have a story to tell about mary...she was quite a woman...when i was little she was my swimming lesson teacher, didnt like her to much then because she kept making put my head under the water well i would have nothing to do with that so my brother Doug Murray who was a lifeguard at the time had to come get me and call my mom to come get me...a few years later she still couldnt get me to put my head in the water..we were both very stubborn...she was a good person and we will all have great memories of her...##imported-begin##Melissa Teninty-Green##imported-end##

September 06, 2011 at 03:29 AM



“ To the Cunnington Family,
You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Your mom was an amazing women with so many talents & will be missed by many.. Hold those memories close. She always had a smile & was willing to help others.##imported-begin##Darla Ruffin Mast##imported-end##

September 04, 2011 at 01:20 AM



“ To the Cunnington Family: I am so sorry for your loss. We are all blessed having known Mrs C, her great laugh and even bigger smile. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Pamm Boland##imported-begin##Pamm Maus Boland##imported-end##

September 03, 2011 at 07:20 PM



“ Dear Cunningtons, I just found out and am so sad for you. Mary & Don have been part of the Moses Lake scene for me ever since high school when we moved there in 1971. 40 years...Debbie, we can't be old enough for that! I pray that God comforts you in knowing that she is with Him and that we will all be together again one day - no more tears or sorrow. Then we can gab all we want. My love to you...##imported-begin##Isabel Cardenas Wilder##imported-end##

September 03, 2011 at 12:34 PM



“ I will never forget when I met Mary and Don. It was at a Relay for Life event. I was in RCIA and Mary and Don were very busy setting up their tent and all related things for the group from OLF. They were so kind to me. I did not know many people being new to the area, and I was included just like one of the family. After that event they would go to OLF often on the day I would be practicing the organ. They would come down and we would hug and talk. What a joy it was to see them many times. My life is so much richer because of knowing Mary and Don. The Rosary and Funeral Mass were beautiful and so well done. I am sure Mary would be happy with the way they turned out. My deepest condolences to Don and his entire family. Most Sincerely, Mary E. Oakes, Organist, Our Lady of Fatima##imported-begin##Mary E. Oakes##imported-end##

September 02, 2011 at 09:14 PM



“ I don't live in Moses Lake anymore but I lived there for years and I knew Mary, I don't think I knew her personally but I did know some of her children and I know that she was a swim instructor at the pool forever and I did see that she greatly loved children. She has been a member of the Moses Lake community for as long as I can remember, she kind of made Moses Lake what it is today and she will be greatly be missed. God Bless you Mary
Cunnington...##imported-begin##Kathy Zarate##imported-end##

September 02, 2011 at 07:10 PM



“ All of you are right. My grandma was an amazing women. She left her mark on everyone she's ever meet. Her legacy will be carried on through all.##imported-begin##Donald B. Cunnington II##imported-end##

September 02, 2011 at 02:05 PM



“ Cunnington family- May the lord give you peace during your time of grief as our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.##imported-begin##Karrie McKechnie and family##imported-end##

September 02, 2011 at 02:59 AM



“ To all the Cunningtons,

I remember you all from my childhood. You may not remember me. Your mom (wife) was my older sisters campfire leader. Also, when I became an adult she was the leader of an exercise class I took through parks & rec. Those were fun years. Your Mom was a very special lady (I need not tell you that)! No matter how she was feeling, she was always happy and friendly to others. One felt special when in her presents even when you may have not seen her for a very long time. I was very saddened to hear of her leaving us. Please always remember the good about her, as I will too. I also remember your dad dressing up as the jolly green giant one year when we were kids. Every time I see him that's who I think of. He made a great jolly green giant. Don, I pray that God will comfort you now! You will always miss Mary. She was a great lady! My heartfelt sympathys are with you all. God Bless you All!###imported-begin##Carol Cosper (Davis)##imported-end##

September 02, 2011 at 12:26 AM



“ No other woman besides my mother had a greater influence in my life than Mary did. Teacher, coach, advisor, confidante, muse. She knew when to hold your hand, when to nudge, and when to push!###imported-begin##Kelly Morris##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 09:01 PM



“ *Deb & the whole Cunnington Clan, I read all the lovely messages and thought WOW! what a lady, what a life. Mary's smile always wide and welcoming Mary's love always there. The loss of one so beautiful in all the ways that count will be felt simply ..always. Love to you all.##imported-begin##Glad & Ike Dominowski##imported-end##*

September 01, 2011 at 07:09 PM



“ *I will always remember Mary's wonderful laugh and love of others. I'll never forget her driving, talking, and doing sign language all at the same time. She is one of the few people who can talk as loud as me. God bless the family and your Mom will be forever remembered.##imported-begin##Marnie Newton##imported-end##*

September 01, 2011 at 05:46 PM



“ *If our place in Heaven is determined by the number of people we had a positive impact on on earth, then Mary will be right up at the head of the class!*

What a wonderful, gracious, giving person she was. "Mama Dolphin" probably taught most of the Moses Lake population of the last half of the 20th century how to swim. I know she taught our four - not only how to swim, but also about faith as a catechism teacher.

I always enjoyed my encounters and interaction with Mary both at church and while working for the parks department in the summers for quite a few years.

She was a grand lady who left a great legacy for family, friends and community.

Rest in peace, Mary. Our prayers and deepest condolences to Don and family.

God bless -

Pete and Faith Doumit##imported-begin##Pete Doumit##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 03:55 PM



“ *two words "AMAZING WOMAN"##imported-begin##Casey Gleason##imported-end##*

September 01, 2011 at 03:23 PM



“ I remember coming to your home years ago for classes in your pool and how fun they were with Mary. She was such a special lady and kind to everyone. She will be greatly missed by the entire community.##imported-begin##Fran Grant##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 12:44 PM



“ The name Mary Cunnington is synonymous with the name Moses Lake. I grew up knowing her as the Parks & Rec lady, the swimming teacher, and most of all as a real friend of the family. I don't think there is even one of my seven siblings that she didn't have some sort of impact on when it came to water recreation; even letting us use her home pool! Mary will be truly missed by all of us in HER town. We will all cherish the memories she helped us create. The Cunnington family is in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Eida DeLeon Siegel##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 12:15 PM



“ In all the years I knew Mary I never saw her without a smile. We will miss her infectious, bubbly personality. May God Bless all her family.##imported-begin##Maxine Darley##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 12:00 PM



“ Our thoughts are with all of you during this time. Mary taught Jason how to swim, to be a lifeguard, and was his boss at Swedberg pool. The latter quite possibly keeping him from getting into even more trouble as a teen. She will be missed greatly. Our thoughts are with all of you during this time!##imported-begin##Jason, Melanie, Oneda, and Alayna##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 10:57 AM



“ Hey Deb and family, my best prayers and thoughts are with you all in this time of loss. I hope all is well and the celebration of your moms life is beautiful and happy as painful as it can be. Love and prayers with you all

Jared Dykstra and family##imported-begin##Jared Dykstra##imported-end##

September 01, 2011 at 01:38 AM



“ My condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Mary Talcott##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 09:59 PM



“ Our thoughts are with all of you during this time.##imported-begin##The Crothers Family - Wayne, Rhonda, Steve & Brian##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 09:07 PM



“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family. I know everyone will miss her always, but her presence will always be felt.##imported-begin##Queliya Dawson##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 08:50 PM



“ To The Cunnington family; Thanks for sharing your dear Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother!! Mary taught our 4 children to swim, and became their friend, at the same time. Everyone loved Mary!!! She has now joined the angels, to begin her eternal life of peace and joy, free from pain. Mary was a fighter, and her strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, gave her the drive and determination to overcome the challenges of life. Mary was compassionate and caring, and was always concerned about the well being of others. Early in Mary's life, she developed the strengths that were to become her legacy to all who knew her!! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sincerely, Cathy and Paul Kersey###imported-begin##Cathy & Paul Kersey###imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 08:28 PM



“ Mary, she was many things to many different people. I remember meeting Don and Mary back in High School where David and I met and became good friends. Wow, I had never met or have met anyone like Mary. I remember spending many nights at the Cunnington's, but what I remember the most is how Mary took me in as one of her own. Christmas at the Cunnington's was a special event that I will never forget. It was as if I had known them for years, and the love they shared was a feeling of true compassion. Mary will be missed, but Mary will not be forgotten, God bless you!###imported-begin##Pablo de Leon Jr.###imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 05:58 PM



“ I never met Mary, i only knew her through her Daughter Debra. I Can tell that she loved her family very much. May God Comfort you all by the power of his Holy Spirit in your loss.

God Bless,

John Shaw###imported-begin###John Shaw###imported-end###

August 31, 2011 at 03:54 PM



“ Dear Cunnington family, I really can't remember not having Mary as a part of our community. I can remember her at city hall, at Park & rec activities, at the old swedburg pool teaching me and my brothers and sister to swim and then my children to swim. She was a bright light in our community and our neighborhood. She loved life and family and I appreciated her example greatly!!Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Kara and family###imported-begin###Kara Waggener Darling###imported-end###

August 31, 2011 at 03:29 PM



“ Dear Don and Family, Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. I feel blessed to have known Mary, she will be missed. I will remember her beautiful big smile and laugh. Love you###imported-begin###Vicky and Andy Wood###imported-end###

August 31, 2011 at 03:26 PM



“ Don and Family,

Mary had a unique way of making everyone feel they were her very best friend. I feel so honored to feel that way too. Thanks all of you for sharing your Mom's/Wife's time with everyone. She supported everyone and came to their defense when needed. She filled my heart with joy and laughter when we would be discussing anything including swimming, twirling, children, grandchildren and religion!! Moses Lake has lost a wonderful "sister" and Heaven is another person happier. I am certain that Daniel was there to greet her with open arms. I love all of you.

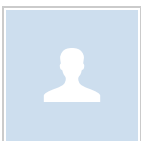
JoAn##imported-begin##JoAn Daniels-Brown Forsyth##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 02:25 PM



“ Jeanne and family our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of need. Your mom was a great lady and will be misses by all. The Dalton Family##imported-begin##Jerry and Karen Dalton##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 01:23 PM



“ Debbie~Dawni and family
My thoughts and prayers are with you durning this time of loss. I remember your mom helping with the dive team, she was always such a joy to be around.##imported-begin##Gina Appleby Estrin##imported-end##

August 31, 2011 at 01:03 PM



“ *Cunnington family, my love and thoughts are with you all. What a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother you all had the pleasure to share life with.##imported-begin##Amy Meadows##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 12:03 PM



“ *My heart goes out to the Cunnington Family. Mary will forever be an inspiration to me. I have so many cherished memories growing up of her and her entire family through Camp Fire Girls, and of course Swimming. She always met you with that beautiful smile and the best hugs ever! Whenever you think of Mary, you think of LOVE & JOY! Rest in Peace Mrs. C, you will be forever missed and loved. Joan Corey##imported-begin##Joan Corey-Payne##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 11:59 AM



“ *I remember one time all the her kids almost all them were on the diving team that's how I meet this wonderful lady full of life well anyway we had a Jr Olympic diving tournament at Wentworth college and I remember I flop on one of my dives I started crying and she told me that everything will be all right I won the gold in my division because I had know one to compete against that was just 2 years ago (Mary I know you are laughing at that one)I was actually about 10 maybe 12 but anyway thanks Mary for all you have done for me and everyone else you have touched in your life. love the Bohn family(Marty/Mike)##imported-begin##marty bohn##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 11:15 AM



“ *Debbie and Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn the loss of your loved one.##imported-begin##Cindy Pedroso##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 03:12 AM



“ *Debbie & family, All my thoughts & prayers go out to you during this difficult time of loss. May God be with you all.##imported-begin##Lil McFarland##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 03:10 AM



“ *To the Cunnington Family, I am so sad for your loss. Mary taught me to swim when I was 40 years old! She was the only one I would trust to save me! God Bless you All.....Jeanette (Whitham) Petty##imported-begin##Jeanette Petty##imported-end##*

August 31, 2011 at 02:17 AM



“ *Our thought's and prayers are with you all!##imported-begin##Dan McCormick##imported-end##*

August 30, 2011 at 09:12 PM



“ Mary Cunnington was bigger than life, be it teaching swimming lessons at the pool, or CCD on Wednesday's after school. You always wanted to be at Mary and Don's house while growing up! You were always made to feel welcome and one of the kids and you knew that she would lend an ear if you needed to talk.

I will remember her with only happy, joyful thoughts and feel blessed for having known her just a little!##imported-begin##Jeane Hunt##imported-end##

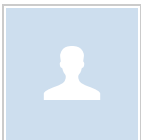
August 30, 2011 at 06:33 PM



“ A woman of extreme strength, courage and love,
Who was beautiful, fun-loving and now so peaceful.
Someone on whom our admiration was showered,
For her dedication as a wife, mom, grandmother... a pillar.

We will forever hold in our hearts our cherished memories of you.##imported-begin##Cheryl Cunnington##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 03:27 PM



“ Debbie, Dawnie & Families, My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult. Your mother always had a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone!##imported-begin##Abe Shelby##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 02:55 PM



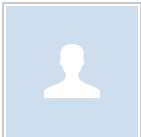
“ I have some of the best memories growing up and spending time at the Cunnington house. I always felt welcome and loved, she gave such big hugs. The last time I saw Mrs. C. is exactly how I want to remember her, at Sheena's wedding laughing and dancing with me. My heart goes out to all the family, God has gained another beautiful angel.##imported-begin##Cyndie Stephenson Lorenz##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 02:30 PM



“ A fun lady whom taught most of Moses Lake to swim, all ways fun to be around rather at the pool, the ball parks. Best wishes to a family of friends...##imported-begin##Scott Ruffin##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 01:40 PM



“ Mary was (and I'm sure still IS!) a fireball with a smile a mile wide that exuded joy and light up most of Eastern Washington. I have a vivid memory of a 5th grade Halloween Party at Knolls Vista when the classroom door flew open, and a costumed witch (Mary) came running it, spouting a poem about having fun, but being safe as we ghoulies went trick-or-treating that night. Mary was all about having fun (she filled every room she entered with joy) but she cared deeply about everyone that came under her ample, and loving wings.##imported-begin##David Hunt##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 01:30 PM



“ Dear Don and family I am so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. My heart aches for you all and even though I have not seen any of you in years you still hold a very special place in my life. Mary taught anyone that ever met her how important it is to accept all people and always look for the good. If you you were a friend of the Cunningtons you were always loved!!
Moses Lake has lost a treasure.
With All My Love, Ken##imported-begin##Ken
Danielson##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 12:02 PM



“ Don & family -- you are all in our prayers and we are so sorry for your loss. Mary fought a hard battle for so long and lived her faith with great courage. We are grateful to remember her as the "best" water safety swimming instructor our son ever had. May God give her soul the repose she deserves for all eternity.##imported-begin##Mike & Joyce Mulliken##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 10:26 AM



“ Cunnington family.....It was pleasure to have known Mary.....She did a lot for our community.....Our love to all the family. Chuck and Alice Millspaugh (formerly we owned Chuck's Sewing Center)##imported-begin##Chuck Millspaugh##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 02:02 AM



“ We will miss you and live you always. A lught has gone out in our lives but heaven had gained a beautiful angel. God Bless you Auntie Mary!##imported-begin##Christina, Tom and family##imported-end##

August 30, 2011 at 01:38 AM



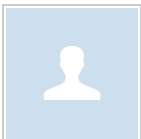
“ She was the best aunt anyone could have ever wanted. I will miss her terribly.##imported-begin##BELINDA JENSEN##imported-end##

August 29, 2011 at 10:59 PM



“ i am so sorry to hear about Mary she was such a great lady. There are so many memories she will live on with the many people she touched.##imported-begin##Donna Anderson##imported-end##

August 29, 2011 at 01:35 PM



“ Mary had a strong impact on my faith life and I am grateful to her for that gift. She is missed already tho she glows with the angels in Paradise.##imported-begin##NikieAnn (Mandelas)Smith##imported-end##

August 29, 2011 at 09:31 AM



“ Dear Cunningtons and friends. I first became acquainted with Mary when Jody Millward approached me about joining his band. We named it "The Handcart Company" kind-of in honour of our Pioneer heritage. Mary and Jody were both working for Moses Lake Parks and Rec. We would drop by McKosh Pool regularly to shoot the breeze with Jody and pay I think it was 35 Cents to go swimming. mary was often around. We got to looking forward to her funn personality and smile. mary did a lot for us Moses Lakers that was certainly more than she was paid for. Thank=you, Mary. you were a terrific example to us as we worked our way to responsible adulthood. ML has lost a brave, interesting, intelligent and loving soul with Mary's passing. we will always remember you and yours, Mary.. David Miles Oman###imported-begin##David Miles Oman###imported-end##

August 29, 2011 at 03:09 AM