



## Bernice M McCulley

January 3, 1935 - May 26, 2019

Bernice Ward McCulley passed away Sunday, May 26, 2019, in her beloved home surrounded by family after decade's long fight against cancer. She was born January 3, 1935 to Hiram and Oma Bowers Ward in Yakima, WA. The family soon moved to Oroville, WA where she spent her entire youth until her 10th grade year in high school, at which time they uprooted and moved to Magazine, Arkansas. Bernice graduated from Magazine High School in 1953 as Senior Class President.

Bernice married Norman Evans in 1956 and had two sons, Mark in 1957 and Mitch in 1960. In 1967 Bernice married Roy McCulley and had daughter Kelly. It was then that the couple purchased a Sears and Roebuck catalog merchant store business out of the classified ads in the newspaper and her very successful business woman career began. She owned and operated the Sears Store in downtown Chelan until 1985. Bernice employed many local women over those 18 years, many of whom grew to become lifelong friends. Mark and Mitch delivered Kenmore appliances in their teen years and Kelly spent her afterschool days sticking phone number stickers on the Spring, Fall and Christmas Wish catalogs. In 1985 Bernice decided to switch gears, sold the Sears Store, got her Real Estate License and went to work for Lake Chelan Properties. In 1988 together with Morgan Picton, they purchased the firm and she then proceeded to have a very successful second career as co-owner of Lake Chelan Properties until 1999. She was very proud of the remodel she did on the downtown Chelan building that she had originally purchased for the Sears Store in the 1970's, turning it into a modern 1990's space for her thriving Real Estate business. Bernice cared deeply for the Lake Chelan community, stating "I'm willing to invest my time and input to the future of Chelan" and thus began her commitment as a Councilmember on the Lake Chelan City Council from 1995 to 2002. Bernice was a 1965 original charter member and still current member of the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Guild 'Y'. She served both as President and Treasurer over the past 54 years. After retirement, Bernice served as a Lake Chelan Community Hospital Commissioner as well as a dedicated and faithful volunteer and advocate for the Lake Chelan Food Bank.

Bernice loved to purchase old homes, give them a freshening up and turn them into rental

properties. She was proud of helping a few of her renters become first time homebuyers by selling them her property and carrying the contract. But her most favorite old house purchase and project was that of her own home of 30 years. The little grey Tudor on the corner of Nixon and Bradley which she lovingly remodeled brought her immense pride and joy, even earning her Yard of the Month in June 1991. But without doubt, her absolute greatest joy in life was her three children, grandchildren and family. Mark and Mitch kept her on her toes and at the edge of her seat with their crazy yet very successful careers as Unlimited Hydroplane Racers. She was, hands down, their number one fan in the whole entire world. The Mother-Daughter relationship she and Kelly shared was truly something special. Many people state that Bernice was their "Second Mom". She was just that kind of gal – Never judgmental, always had an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on and sound commonsense advice to share. It should be noted however, that Mark, Mitch nor Kelly has any second mom in their lives, because she was just that kind of Mom. She was everything to them and will be missed beyond measure.

Bernice was preceded in death by her parents, Hiram and Oma Ward; and sister, Betty Jean Marsh. She is survived by her brother, Larry Ward of Cashmere, WA; son, Mark Evans of Chelan, WA; son Mitch Evans (Barbara Smith) of Chelan, WA; Daughter, Kelly Rolen (Roger) of Chelan, WA; Grandchildren, Erin Mudd (Ron) of Chelan, WA, Alexandra Thompson (Chris) of Charleston, SC and Nicholas Moore of Marysville, WA; Great Grandchildren, Sydney, Nick, Emily, Bryce, Anna, RJ, Barlee and Graesyn and many nieces, nephews, family and friends. The family would like to extend a special gesture of gratitude to the Confluence Health Hospice Nurses and Staff for your loving care.

A Memorial Service will be held at 12:00 p.m. at the Chelan Fraternal Cemetery Friday, June 14, 2019. Following the service, a Celebration of Life will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Chelan Senior Center, 534 E Trow Ave., Chelan, WA 98816. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Lake Chelan Food Bank, P.O. Box 2684, Chelan, WA 98816 or Lake Chelan Community Hospital Guild 'Y', 231 Eldorado Way, Chelan, WA 98816. Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at <http://www.prechtrose.com>. Arrangements are the care of Precht-Rose Chapel, Chelan, WA.

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel** - May 31, 2019 at 07:56 PM

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“ Erleyne Jackson lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Erleyne Jackson** - June 15, 2019 at 09:31 PM

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“ Aunt Bernice... What a lady!!! I remember going to the cabin with Mark, Mitch, and I, boy was it cold, Aunt Bernice made the best soup to warm us all up, she said this would be a "camping trip to remember" and that is was. She helped save my life when I was just 2, mom was having a very troubling time, Aunt Bernice stepped in and took me to the doctor which he then said that I was in desperate condition. Thanks Aunt Bernice!! That is just the kind of women she was, always willing to help no matter what the cost, we have always had that special bond. You will be missed special lady. I will miss you, Love Murlena

**Murlena A Houdak** - June 12, 2019 at 07:35 PM

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“ To your children, please know that your Mother was much loved and will be miss. Prayers to you and all the family. She is gone but will not be forgotten. Judy Miller



**Judith Miller** - June 07, 2019 at 11:29 PM

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“ Sandra kinsman Glaze



**Sandra Kinsman Flaze** - June 07, 2019 at 10:33 PM

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“ Sandra Kinsman Flaze lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Sandra Kinsman Flaze** - June 07, 2019 at 10:30 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of being both a customer of Bernice at the Sears store and later as a very effective sales agent for Lake Chelan Properties when working for me. I always enjoyed Bernice and her family must know she had a positive influence on a large number of people.

Tom and Karen Walters

**Tom Walters** - June 07, 2019 at 01:00 PM

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“ Michael And Deborah (Feller) Bass lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Michael and Deborah (Feller) Bass** - June 07, 2019 at 11:33 AM

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“ Always a Sweet lady. Bernice will be so missed by all. Beautiful heart. Condolences to the family.

**Julie Pelfrey** - June 01, 2019 at 01:13 PM

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“ Melissa Prizant lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Melissa Prizant** - June 01, 2019 at 01:11 PM

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“ Eden Cooley lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Eden Cooley** - June 01, 2019 at 12:23 PM

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“ When we first moved here 9 years ago, Jim and I both got involved in the community. He was on the get a new hospital group and I was involved in the food bank. We both came home talking about a wonderful lady we had both met. Turned out it was the same wonderful lady and we always considered her the first friend we both made here.

She led an interesting life and was one of a kind and so, so special. We feel lucky to have known her. R.I.P., dear Bernice.

Jim & Pat Batdorf

**Jim & Pat Batdorf** - June 01, 2019 at 12:21 PM

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“ Kevin & Candi West lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



**Kevin & Candi West** - May 29, 2019 at 02:54 PM

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“ Our memory of Bernice, first as a Realtor, goes way back to the late 1970s when we looked for raw land. She gave us a list of properties and one of them was up Union Valley. We were gone far longer than she thought was normal - this was long before cell phones - and when we completed our day, we called to let her know which piece of property we liked the best. She told us she had been sick with worry about us. We felt awful. We ended up buying a small lot in Manson through her and she was always the consummate professional. Now, fast forward to the 2000s. She was a faithful attendee of the SAIL fitness classes for seniors at the Senior Center. She had the BEST sense of humor and when I was called upon to substitute - she was my "whistle" for calling the class to order. How I did love to see her put her fingers to her lips and let loose with her LOUD farm/ranch whistle. I visited her a couple of times at Heritage Heights and she was as plucky as I've always known her to be. I will deeply miss her presence. My heart goes out to her wonderful family during this sad time.  
Gaylen & Bruce Willett - Chelan

Gaylen Willett - May 28, 2019 at 11:56 PM

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“ Cheryl A. Williams lit a candle in memory of Bernice M McCulley



Cheryl A. Williams - May 27, 2019 at 04:18 PM