



Lizette Kay Tanke

December 31, 1957 - January 8, 2021

Lizette Kay “Liz” Tanke, 63, longtime resident of Washington state, died on January 8, 2021. She was born on December 31, 1957, in Rockford, Illinois, to Keith and Ruby (Due) Tanke. The family moved to Brookfield, Wisconsin when Liz was a teenager. She graduated from Brookfield East High School in 1975 and earned her MBA in Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in 1981. Liz married Mark Peter on August 13, 1983.

Shortly after graduation, Liz and Mark loaded their belongings into their station wagon and drove to Washington to start their careers. They fell in love with Washington’s mountains and diverse landscapes and made the state their forever home.

Liz, Mark and their beloved Labrador Retrievers ventured into the backcountry to hike, camp and explore as often as they could. Liz mastered the technique of telemark skiing, gently descending the mountain with the grace of a dancer. She took great pleasure in identifying native plants and watching birds flit around and wildlife scamper through the snow. Time spent in nature brought her immense joy and refreshed her soul.

With an insatiable desire to learn, Liz became a voracious reader, gaining knowledge about a wide variety of disciplines and interests, notably the natural sciences and psychology. She also enjoyed writing poetry, practicing meditation, and spending time with her friends and her dogs.

While she left us too soon, we find comfort in the words she shared with Mark: “I am at peace, I’m in God’s hands, and I have no regrets.”

Liz is survived by her husband, Mark; her nephew, Alex Tanke; and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Jon.

Due to Covid-19, there will be no funeral service. Memorials may be made to the Washington Native Plant Society (www.wnps.org) or the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org).

“My spirit is dancing even if my feet are not moving.” -Lizette Kay Tanke

Tribute Wall



“ *Lizette Kay Tanke*

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



TIm Dowd - February 03, 2021 at 02:03 AM



“ *We were so sad to hear the news of Liz's passing. It brought back so many wonderful memories, especially of hiking up to Snow Grass Flats way back when and watching the dogs chasing the birds. The dogs wore saddle bags and carried their own food and our beer. Mark - we wish you peace during this time. Love - Barbara Heizer and Eric Nielsen*

Barbara L Heizer - January 27, 2021 at 10:51 PM



“ *Remembering good times in the mountains with Liz and friends in 1986.*



Ron Johnson - January 23, 2021 at 12:49 AM

Jl

“ I met Liz in 1992 when I was intent on becoming an environmental activist and working to preserve our forests here in the Northwest. I first met her at a meeting of the Eastside Forest Task Force at the University of Washington. It a small group focused on getting outside and learning as much as possible about forest ecology, river and stream hydrology, plants, wildlife, and more that comprise the forest ecosystems east of the Cascade Crest in order to more knowledgeably defend against proposed clearcuts and such. While I was struggling to know how to get involved after the meeting adjourned, I noticed this lovely and wholesome-looking woman sitting quietly and was drawn to her.

First off, she clearly was very smart and knew what was going on and how to work effectively. She was helpful and open to taking me under her wing a bit, unlike other more strident people. I knew instantly I wanted to be her friend.

Over the course of several years we did become friends. I enjoyed camping and hiking with Liz, and visited her and Mark in Chelan after they left the Seattle area (although regret I didn't visit more). I was always very impressed with her knowledge of the natural world, her practicality, her humor, her thoughtfulness, and her whimsical spirit beneath that engineer's mind. She was a kind, deep-thinking person. I'm so sad to hear of her loss, too soon. My sympathies to Mark and all with whom she graced her friendship and attention.

Jill Irwin - January 22, 2021 at 08:12 PM

PS

“ I first met Liz over 20 years ago when she became a mentor to me in my desire to grow a landscape of native plants at my new home. She shared an immense knowledge of the environment here in eastern Washington as well as sharing plants and seeds. i think of her whenever I work with my natives as well as when I'm on a hike that I had been with her as a leader.



My sympathy to you, Mark

Peach Simonds - January 18, 2021 at 06:07 PM

MP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



M Pullen - January 14, 2021 at 09:07 PM

GW

“ Gaylen Willett lit a candle in memory of Lizette Kay Tanke




Gaylen Willett - January 14, 2021 at 12:54 PM

GW

The first time I met Liz was at the Spirals of Joi store in Chelan. She was sitting in cross-legged listening to the different sounds of the bowls. She intrigued me and we lightly talked about why she was doing that. Later, I met her in the Lutheran church, then again in a Philosophical book club. Each time I talked with Liz I felt I was talking to an ethereal spirit. She loved her husband, Mark, deeply, followed by plants, her dogs, (and all animals) and the world in general. I will deeply miss her physical presence on earth, but I am certain I will be aware of her dancing spirit.

Gaylen Willett - January 14, 2021 at 12:59 PM

 Vita
Kay
Monteleone

“ Vita Kay Monteleone lit a candle in memory of
Lizette Kay Tanke



Vita Kay Monteleone - January 14, 2021 at 12:16 PM

 Vita
Kay
Monteleone

Liz always asked about my daughter Samantha, she will be remembered to me by that and by the fact that she wore a dress with pants under it. To this day it makes me smile.

Vita Kay Monteleone - January 14, 2021 at 12:17 PM