



Denene Wanda Genther

November 18, 1962 - January 13, 2016

Born in San Diego but moved to Washington as a child, Denene attended Stanwood schools K through 12. An eager student and ambitious socialite, she participated in as many activities as she could find time for attracting many friends with her warm and welcoming personality. She played the flute in the marching and pep club bands, ran track and field, was student body treasurer, and a member of the Spanish Club and Mu Alpha Theta.

Repeatedly outstanding, Denene received a letter for student achievement, earned the Presidential Physical Fitness award, was twice recorded in Who's Who among American High School Students for consistency in excellence, and was awarded college scholarships from the Methodist Church and the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce. She graduated with honors among the class of '81.

Denene pursued her interest in mathematics at WWU using every opportunity to meet new friends. Denene loved people and regarded each one as a possibility to experience life in a unique way. During a break she met her husband Craig working at Drummond's Restaurant in Mt Vernon. They began studies at Skagit Valley Community College together and within two years they married and moved to Bellingham to continue college together.

When a door opened to work in the wilderness of Alaska, Denene put her books on the shelf and accompanied Craig to Heceta Island for six months. Under hemlock poles, sheet plastic and a star-filled sky, this turned into a spiritual sabbatical for Denene where nature and meditation were her daily

meat. While Craig was pushing a chainsaw, Denene would visit with the wives at the logging camp gaining new friends and understandings. Daniel was conceived and they returned to the lower 48 where Denene started her parenting years. Craig joined the Air Force and Denene traveled with him to Idaho, Colorado, Texas and back to Colorado, where Craig retired.

Open and curious, Denene was well suited to a military life. She involved herself in community after community. Her energy was fueled by her boundless love for, and genuine interest in others. In her Air Force life, Denene worked to supplement the family income when needed, she continued studies and self-enrichment at every opportunity.

Most important to Denene were her boys. Daniel; born in 1986 and Mathew in 1987. Parenting was as natural as breathing for Denene and she soared into it with wonder and pride. She spent everyday growing right along side her children and was as eager to start each day as were her boys. She home schooled both her sons and believed it to be a mother's right and honor. Sharing in their activities she was embraced by her children's friends maintaining relationships with many of them.

Wherever she went she used whatever tools she had to connect with people and bridge relationships. During their first assignment to Mt. Home AFB, Denene became involved in a local church in the same way she did anything. She soon earned the love and respect of the church and a pastor's license. It wasn't long until she led the congregation. She put her high school Spanish to good purpose gaining the love and trust of the Hispanic community and soon had a growing Spanish-speaking congregation.

Craig retired from the Air Force to Wenatchee WA. With two grown sons, Denene had the freedom to pursue her own career and she did with ambition and integrity. She worked as a Financial Service Representative for Peoples Bank until illness forced her to retire. She left holding the love and respect of her superiors, coworkers and every customer that had the honor and pleasure to be served by her.

Everywhere she and her family traveled she touched others' lives and was

beloved by people she met, making many lifelong friends. You are invited to leave memories and condolences on her online guestbook at: www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com

Tribute Wall

LI

“ *Denene,
We had our moments, but we had a lot more great talks on those slow 7:00 nights and became very good friends, Thank you very much.
They say only the good dye young and we are all put here to do something for God. You did your job very very well and way to fast. But you do get to go home to be with God for being so great. You will be very sorely missed by everyone.
Thank you for being in my life.*

Linda - February 04, 2016 at 04:52 PM

SC

“ *Denene was a wonderful girl and I admired her very much - thank you for many hours of math tutoring at WWU, Dix, your kind heart and the quickness of your laughter and smile! My prayers are with your family now and I know you are with them now every moment of their lives! I am deeply saddened by your departure but look forward to the day we meet again!*

*I am so very sorry for your loss, Genther family and Dixon Family. Denene was a very, very special lady and I will always remember her very fondly.
Kindness. Warmly, Sue*

Susan Barry Campbell - January 24, 2016 at 03:03 AM

JB

“ Too many years go by, life takes over and friends move on to their adventures. I was just a kid, we were all just kids, working side by side at Drummond's Restaurant. Not knowing what it really did for us, teaching us work ethic, team work, and building friendships.

I remember that smile, always a smile, and fun to work with. I read a brief life story, and it is a fantastic life!

God bless you guys. I will hold you close in my prayers.

Jb

John jb brown - January 23, 2016 at 10:32 PM

SS

“ *I miss you so much Denene! The past year has been so incredible with you and I learned so much more about you and myself. Thank you for our times and our talks which will be cherished forever! Craig you and your boys....I am so sorry and we are hear for you guys anytime you need us and I am already miss our coffee times. I love you guys with all my heart!*

Stephanie Sanford - January 23, 2016 at 09:42 PM

ME

“ My friend Denene is one of the strongest women I've ever known! She taught me the value of time with family and never let anyone take precedence over her husband, she told me the story of meeting the love of her life Craig Genter at least 100 times and how she knew she would marry him, she was the first homeschool mom I had ever met and loved her boys beyond any description of mere words, she knew every healthy food and medicinal plant, she was the first chick I ever met that loved math, she was the first person I ever actually saw cook with wine or eat lentils, she prayed like a giant and preached with more passion and conviction than any man I had ever seen, she was always learning always questioning always seeking! She loved strongly and deeply and impacted everything and everyone around her for the better! She was wise beyond her years and loved life! She had the greatest sense of humor and laugh of anyone I've ever know and I can't believe she is now with our Yashua, I can't believe God didn't heal her, some things I will never understand but I choose to trust the Lord as did Denene until she drew her last breath. Denene was a fighter, brave, strong and resilient and held on to this life with a fervency like no one I've ever known and she was fully present until the end! I can't believe she is gone but the hope of glory that we shared will definitely reunite us again. I love you Denene and I will miss you! I love you Craig, Mathew and Daniel and I offer my deepest condolences.

Melissa - January 22, 2016 at 08:42 PM

KC

“ To Craig and your children and the family of Denene,
I was so very sad to hear of Denene's passing. I know she is with
the Lord and am so very grateful to be able to see her again but I
can't imagine the grief you are feeling. We didn't know about her
cancer battle since we only stopped by every year or so to visit
when we went to my sisters. Even though we didn't see her very
often she has always had a very special place in my heart reserved
for great friends. I would like to try to attend the memorial if I can but
I don't see one posted yet.
We have been and will continue to pray for you all.
Keith and Leslie Christenson

Keith Christenson - January 18, 2016 at 11:20 AM