



Sherry K. Hoover

August 7, 1943 - February 20, 2021

Sherry K. Hoover, 77 of Wakarusa, passed away Saturday, February 20, 2021 at Miller's Merry Manor, Wakarusa. She was born August 7, 1943 in Elkhart to Edwin "Eddie" Hoover Jr. and Phyllis A. (Canen) Hoover.

She is survived by her brother Rex (Liz) Hoover of Wakarusa, nieces Michele (Tom) Moleski, Bristol, Stephanie Hoover, Wakarusa, Amy Hoover, Wakarusa and great niece Ava Steele.

Preceding her in death were her parents and brother Max Ray Hoover.

Sherry graduated from Wakarusa High School in 1961. She was an English and Drama Teacher that started her career at Port Washington, Long Island, NY. She then moved back home and taught at Wakarusa and Northwood High Schools. After which she moved back to New York and was a professor at Long Island University. She finished her career and retired from Elkhart Memorial High School. She also created Pyramid Production Company which was a theater on wheels that performed original music for children's hospitals and nursing homes. Sherry loved her dog Jazz, playing cards and games of which Yahtzee was her favorite.

There will be a Memorial Gathering from 1-3 pm Wednesday, February 24, 2021 followed by a Memorial Service at 3 pm all at Rieth Rohrer Ehret Lienhart Funeral Home, 117 W. Waterford St., Wakarusa, IN 46573. Pastor Greg Way will officiate the service. The service will be live streamed on the funeral home website <http://www.rrefh.com>. Go to Sherry's Tribute Page. The stream will show up before the service under the (Media/Photo and Video tab). A private family burial will be at a later date. Memorial contributions can be sent to Center for Hospice Care, Elkhart or Wakarusa United Methodist Church.

Events

FEB **Memorial Service** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

24

Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Homes
117 W Waterford Street, Wakarusa, IN, US, 46573

FEB **Memorial Service** 03:00PM

24

Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Homes
117 W Waterford Street, Wakarusa, IN, US, 46573

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes - February 24, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ thank you for sharing the video! I got to be there from WA State for my classmates service! Blessings. Phyllis Detwiler Valentine

Phyllis Detwiler Valentine - February 24, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ An external video has been added.



Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes - February 23, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ Sherry, Ms Hoover back in the days of high school, has always and will continue to hold a special place in my heart. She embodied qualities of the perfect teacher, mentor, friend, and colleague. I have realized through the years she taught me how to be a better teacher....patient, kind, present, and interested. While in dress rehearsal for a show, I became emotional to the point of crying...and as I left the stage and entered my dressing room, she was there, ready with a hug, concern for me, and helping me regain control, to understand the dramatic process, to tell the story, but mostly exhibiting the human one. I tell that story to my students in lessons and class to this day. Steve and I saw Sherry in Nappanee a few years ago and caught up a little....she was always so proud of us, and all of her students! To her family, we are so sorry for your loss.

Stacy Strakowski - February 24, 2021 at 04:51 PM



“ Sherry, or Ms Hoover as I called her then, inspired me to think beyond Nappanee to aspire to enter and be prepared for a larger world. She was one of the first teachers to push my abilities to write and create, skills that bolstered me the rest of my educational and academic career as well as life more generally. Always ready to challenge us to excellence with kindness and humor, her loss will be felt by everyone who remembers her fondly. Our thoughts and prayers go with her family and many friends. I am so glad that I knew her.
Steve Strakowski

Steve Strakowski - February 24, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ To Rex, Liz, Michelle, Stephanie, & Amy, May God bless, encourage you, & give you strength as you adjust to life without Sherry. It was our pleasure to live next door to Sherry (& also your parents, Rex) for many years. It was a joy to see Sherry's enthusiasm & excitement preparing the programs each summer for Pyramids Productions. It was also enjoyable to attend a program .She was so proud of each one of the young people who participated. Her friendship will always be remembered.
Arlene Stump

Arlene Stump - February 24, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ Sherry was one of the best teachers I had in any grade or college course. She made an effort to relate to all of her students, and she did it with humor and respect. She was a superlative teacher and I would have to say I learned more in her class than I did in any other class. I have continued to utilize those things she taught us. I was glad that Sherry and I were able to continue our friendship through the years. She had a tremendous positive impact on me, and on so many other students. I will miss my friend and the laughs and stories that we have shared. Very best wishes and sympathy to her family for their loss.

Brian Hoffer

BRIAN HOFFER - February 24, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ Eugene Ornelas lit a candle in memory of Sherry K. Hoover



Eugene Ornelas - February 24, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ During my time at LIU Post there were a few people who made a major impact on me there. Sherry was without a doubt one of those. She inspired me to continue in theater through her caring and her love for the art and for her devotion to the students. Without her I'm not sure where I would've ended up going or doing. There are two distinct and very clear memories I have from her. During a hard time I was having to decide whether or not to stay at Post or to continue with theater she challenged me to look deep within to question what I was about and why I was having a hard time. Did I belong? Was it worth staying? She helped me realize that I was at the right place at the right time. Accept where I was and who I was and to embrace the time there. I stayed. I graduated. I continued in theater after and worked in film and tv. She helped me to believe in myself when it mattered. The other time was soon after graduation I was looking for an apt. in NYC to rent. She had an extra room to rent where she was on 181st and Cabrini. She offered to rent it to me for cheap to help a struggling...you know. People come into your lives for a reason. You may not know or understand why. We had some great talks about life in general and especially about theater. Those were the times I have always treasured and will keep close to my heart. Sherry was special. Those of you who spent time with her know what I mean. I was honored to have known her and work with her. She was one of the "good eggs". Thank you Sherry! Love you! My condolences to Sherry's family.

Eugene Ornelas - February 24, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ I am forever grateful to Sherry who was a major influence on my life in the theatre. Sherry introduced me to new shows and headed up trips to NYC every summer and I got to go three times!
She was the best kind of teacher: tough, hilarious, and she knew when to push and when to lay back.
I send my deepest condolences to Sherry's family but this message comes with my deepest gratitude for all she did for me.

Rich Biever - February 24, 2021 at 02:32 PM



“ Beautiful homage to an incredible woman. RIP my friend.

Melissa Troxel - February 24, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ Hoover was my Drama teacher and mentor my Freshman and Sophomore year at Elkhart Memorial High School after which she retired. So much of who I became as an actor and an educator myself was shaped early by her influence and guidance. She believed in me which helped me to believe in myself. I have and will continue to carry her wisdom with me for the rest of my life. Thank you, Sherry, for sharing your bright light with me.

Tanner Smale - February 24, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ Sherry was my theatre teacher and director at Elkhart Memorial, in the early 90's. I have so many fond memories of her. She is the reason that I went to Ball State for Theatre. I had the absolute honor of being in quite a few of her lovely productions at Memorial. She was a shining light in the world, and she could make anyone believe in the goodness of people and the power of love to overcome adversity. She will always hold a special place in my heart. She was a mentor and a hero to me. I send my deepest condolences to her family and all of the many people whose lives she touched with her wonderful spirit.

With Love,
Michael Doty

Michael Doty - February 24, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ Sherry was more than a teacher; she was a true friend. From countless theatre productions at Elkhart Memorial to several summers touring with Pyramid Productions, Sherry brought so much joy to my life. I will miss her greatly. Much love to her family. —Jodi Taylor McKee



Jodi McKee - February 24, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ It saddened me to hear of the passing of Sherry. She impacted so many many young people over the years. Some of my most fond memories from High School were from drama club and our fabulous productions at NorthWood. She was so gifted in her teaching and directing. You will be missed Sherry. Rick Wilson (1978)

Rick Wilson - February 24, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ Sherry sparkled with childlike joy at all the wonders of the world, and shared her enthusiasm with everyone she met. She loved everyone, especially her family and her students. I was blessed that she touched my life, and now heaven is lucky to have her. Enjoy God's embrace, my dear friend, until we meet again!

karen couture - February 24, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sherry K. Hoover.



February 23, 2021 at 09:07 PM



“ Sherry was my classmate in the class of 1961!
I worked at Hoover's with Mom & Dad who gave me the name Tess as there were 3 Phyllis's working there at the time. Sherry was in my class & Rex was in my brother Donnie's class. They were like a 2nd family. God bless you Rex! I live in WA State but will be streaming the service. Prayers for you all!
Love & hugs
Phyllis {Detwiler} Valentine

Phyllis Detwiler Valentine - February 23, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ I knew of Sherri as a student at Northwood in the early 70s, but it wasn't until the winter of my sophomore year that I started to know her as director, mentor and friend. I played a dorky farm boy hero in a melodrama, and was hooked. My last show with her was in the summer of 1980 when she produced the musical Shenandoah in a month. As the lead, I ran more laps and had the job of parenting the rest of the main characters. That summer, I got to know Sherri as a coach, motivator, comforter and so much more.

Years later, when I told her of my daughter's experience in theater and music and her theater/management major at University of Evansville, we hooked up at a restaurant in Goshen and Sherri took Rebekah on her Pyramid Productions team. What a joy to see Sherri work with her as she had worked with me.

I remember when Sherri volunteer taught myself and 3 theater friends for a 9 week course. What a blast! Our first written assignments were so horrible grammar-wise that Sherri took the time to reteach us English grammar. I never told her, but that saved my bacon more than once in college and really came in handy later in seminary.

Sherri was a light in many of our lives and I am a better person and preacher because of her. Well done, good and faithful servant. Enjoy your well-deserved rest.
Brad Hardesty, class of 1975

Brad Hardesty - February 23, 2021 at 07:34 PM



“ Sherry was one of my favorite teachers and she impacted me greatly as both a person and a student. I stumbled into her world of drama and graduated a couple of years and 4 plays later. She had a wonderful way of supporting, pushing, and instilling confidence. And, of course, the trips to NYC, which were unforgettable.
Lenny Carter

Lenny Carter - February 23, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ She touched so many of us that had her as a teacher and a friend. She was a no nonsense tell you like it is (pushed you when you needed it) person. And then give you that grin.
She was a angel among us.
Fly high and free...
Rest in peace....



Sandy - February 23, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ Sherry was also one of my favorite teachers. Her classes were marvelous! They were both challenging and captivating. We will miss you.

Dacia (Soliday)Reid NW class of 1980 - March 01, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ Sherry was my English teacher, drama teacher, and LIFE COACH back in 1973-1974. After being in a couple of her plays at Northwood she encouraged and supported me to audition to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. With her support, audition suggestion and guidance , I was excepted . I guy from from Waky going to AADAthanks to Sherry.
Realizing that NYC and the big stage was not for me, I returning to Waky and pursued other "dreams" . Sherry was there to help me make a big transition in "dreams".
Being a teacher of students is to help them find fulfillment in LIFE. Sherry had this down to an art. I will never forget the VW bus rides to NYC, Mama Lionines , Jones Beach and the Hotel Manhattan where the gang all stayed And the subway ride to my audition .

Every man has his daydreams
Every man has his goal
People like the way dreams have
Of sticking to the soul
Thunderclouds have their lightning
Nightingales have their song
And don't you see I want my life to be
Something more than long...
Rivers belong where they can ramble
Eagles belong where they can fly
I've got to be where my spirit can run free
Got to find my corner of the sky
So many men seem destined
To settle for something small
But I won't rest until I know I'll have it all
So don't ask where I'm going
Just listen when I'm gone
And far away you'll hear me singing
Softly to the dawn

Thank You Miss Hoover for impacting my Life in a huge way 47 years ago .

Sit back , Rest in Peace And enjoy the show

Greg



“ She was not only my favorite teacher but friend. She was always caring, nice and just really cared about you. She could tell a good joke and take one. Braxton learned to perform with her. She will be truly missed.



Paula (Mitchell) Torpy - February 22, 2021 at 07:26 PM



“ Rebekah Hardeson (a Pyramid Productions Kid) purchased the Ghirardelli Galore for the family of Sherry K. Hoover.



Rebekah Hardeson (a Pyramid Productions Kid) - February 22, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ What an impression Sherry left on my family! As I was growing up, obsessed with musical theatre, my dad would tell me all about his drama teacher from high school (Sherry) and their adventures to New York City to see Broadway. Thanks to his introduction to Sherry, I then had the honor of being a member of Pyramid Productions while I was in college. We had such fun: so many laughs and so many adventures on the road as we traveled to bring the gift of song to folks across the country. What a beautiful thing to be able to bring joy to so many, and such important lessons for 18-year-old me to learn.

I too had the privilege of taking trips to NYC with Sherry on Pyramid tours, and it just added to my dream of wanting to live there one day. I've lived here for six+ years now with many more to come. Thanks for being a part of that dream, Sherry.

Last story (for now): when Sherry retired, she had this really cute love seat in her office at school. Sherry asked if I wanted it, and of course I said YES PLEASE (as a poor recent grad about to move to Boston in the fall after one more season with Pyramid). And... you guessed it: we sure did, just the two of us, get that heavy thing (it even had a twin-sized pull-out mattress!) out into my minivan. It made it to Boston, but it was SO HEAVY that I LEFT IT behind when I later moved out of my first Boston apartment; I couldn't face getting it back out the door. Thanks for providing furniture to me and whoever moved into that Boston apartment after me, Sherry.

And isn't that just SO Sherry? Need to move a love seat? She'll make it happen! Thank you for your spark and your laugh, Sherry. You will be missed.



Rebekah Hardeson - February 22, 2021 at 06:21 PM



“ Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Sherry K. Hoover.



February 22, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sherry K. Hoover.



February 22, 2021 at 07:24 AM



“ From: Sara Biltz and Cheryl Huff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sherry K. Hoover.



From: Sara Biltz and Cheryl Huff - February 21, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ Sherry and I taught together at NorthWood for several years and remained friends even after Jim and I moved to South Carolina. We shared many wonderful memories. Probably the best were our several trips to NYC. Some with Jim; some without; some with students; some without. We were accosted by street people and gangs; we went backstage and meant Broadway stars. We saw every play on Broadway at the time; sometimes seeing 12 or 13 in 8 days. Beyond NYC Cheryl and I met her at Cooks for pizza every time I visited from SC, went to Annie's and played cards half the night, and always met her newest puppy. Throughout my teaching career I always used Sherry-stories and will never forget all the great times we spent together. I love you, Old Friend. May You Rest In Peace.

Sara Biltz - February 21, 2021 at 07:04 PM



“ Sherry was such a special person. She had an ability to bring people and things and a vision to reality. She ran a tight ship but she also had a wicked sense of humor and a great laugh. I am forever grateful Sherry was a part of my life. I pray peace for her family and all that knew her.

Katy (Peat) Patterson - February 21, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ Sherry and I had a common interest in Peanuts/Charlie Brown collectibles. She sold her collection to me when she moved out of Wakarusa. She was happy knowing someone would appreciate them as much as she did.
She also taught when I went to NorthWood, most of her students loved her just as she did them!
Blessings to you, Sherry!

Brenda Weatherton - February 21, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ Sherry was an important person to my family and a powerful force my life! She taught English with my late mother, Marsha Caldwell, at Northwood High School. She made an impact on me even at an early age, so much so that I named one of my playskool little people after her. Later in life she was extremely encouraging and always supportive as I found my way into performing arts. I credit her with pushing me towards many of the achievements I have made today. I will remember her dearly. I will remember her sweet laugh. I will remember how she loved taking care of other people. She will be missed.

James Ryan Caldwell - February 21, 2021 at 05:30 PM



“ Memories of Sherry brings smiles to me. Terrific teacher, great friend. I will always remember our trip to NYC. We drove her VW van. Sherry, Sara, Aunt Gladys (we shared an aunt thru inlaws) and myself. What an unforgettable trip! She was one of those people that didn't get mad when "stuff" hit the fan. She would in her way just move the fan. She touched so many lives. God bless and rest in peace.

Ruth Moore - February 21, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ Sherry was a consummate professional and a delightful colleague and friend. She touched countless lives through her artistic endeavors. She will be greatly missed.



Michael Wade - February 21, 2021 at 03:21 PM



“ Sherry was a wonderful friend to me and my family. Loved the time working with her at Memorial High School, being her Stage Manager. She was a great inspiration to us all. You will be greatly missed.

Jon Nelson - February 21, 2021 at 11:25 AM



“ Sherry was my English teacher at NW High School. After high school she became a good friend. Our long talks , your laughter and your great hugs will be missed.

Dee Blosser Nelson - February 21, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ So lucky to have had her for a teacher. One of the most influential teachers in my educational career. Sherry definitely made us "up" our game. RIP Sherry

Linda Anglemyer Stolley - February 21, 2021 at 10:51 AM