



Carla Lamka

March 6, 1942 - August 15, 2010

TOPPENISH -- On Aug. 15, 2010, Carla Darline Lamka left this world a better place than when she found it.

She fought illness with grace, optimism and savoir-faire, but in the end she could not overcome the ravages of a massive brain hemorrhage coupled with a

two-year battle against colon cancer that had spread to her lungs.

Education was her vocation – she was a founding staff member of Heritage College, now Heritage University – but her intellect and curiosity led her in many directions. She was a wife, mom, grandma, caregiver to her mother, musician, passionate and eclectic connoisseur of cultural events and nurturer of an astonishing array of flowers that brighten her Toppenish neighborhood.

She was born March 6, 1942, in Auburn, Wash., the first child of locally prominent educators Dewane and Darline Lamka. She graduated from Bethel High

School near Tacoma – as valedictorian – and entered the University of Washington.

While at UW, she played in the 1961 Rose Bowl (third clarinet, as her father liked to quip) and met Jim Flint; the two married in 1963. They settled in Toppenish and had two children, Greg Flint and Jamie Flint. In 1985, she married Frank Purdy; they marked their 25th anniversary four days before her passing.

She finished her undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University in the late 1970s. After earning her master's from Fort Wright, she helped pioneer higher education in the Lower Valley with her supporting role in establishing Heritage College outside of Toppenish. She served more than two

decades as financial aid director; she found immense satisfaction in helping deserving students achieve their educational goals.

Before and after her retirement in 2007, she spent considerable time in the Tacoma area caring for her ailing mother, who preceded her in death by three months.

Carla's family wishes to thank Dr. Vicky Jones and the staff at North Star Lodge in Yakima. They helped Carla chart a vigorous life after her cancer diagnosis. Her final hours found her at Toppenish Community Hospital and then Kadlec Medical Center in Richland. Her family appreciates the caring and professionalism from the staffs at both hospitals.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Purdy of Toppenish; two children, Greg Flint of Kirkland, Wash., and Jamie Flint of Spokane; one grandson, Carlos Flint Lynch of Spokane; two brothers, Charles Lamka of Nepal and Michael Lamka of Puyallup, Wash.; one sister, Cheryl Perkins of New Delhi, India; and 11 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Smith Family Hall in the Arts and Sciences Center on the Heritage University campus. The campus is on Fort Road west of Toppenish.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a college scholarship fund of the donor's choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Carla Lamka*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Carla was an esteemed colleague in the founding phase of Heritage College. It was always a pleasure to work with her and to understand how much of her time and effort she gave to the mission. A gentle soul who saw the path and enabled students to follow...she has earned a place forever among the righteous who instruct others unto justice.##imported-begin##Judith Bride##imported-end##*

October 22, 2010 at 05:11 PM



“ *Carla was a wonderful woman. I always felt so welcome in her home. She did a fabulous job with her children and Carlos. God certainly has another Amazing Angel he has called home.##imported-begin##Cindee Herman Galland##imported-end##*

October 04, 2010 at 10:56 PM



“ *I worked with Carla for many years and found her unfailingly optimistic and helpful. She took great care to provide the best services for students and many people in the Valley have their college degrees because Carla helped to find them the money that financed their future.##imported-begin##Pamela Root##imported-end##*

August 19, 2010 at 06:41 PM



“ *A wonderful lady who helped me while at the Heritage University. We need more people like her to help everyone succeed in their academics to help form a career while still residing here in the area.*

A great loss to education and I will always remember her kind heart and willing to help others in education and in life.

Please take care.##imported-begin##Armetha Smiskin##imported-end##

August 19, 2010 at 01:42 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Carla's friends and family for a great loss. The Heritage University is a family, a strong circle of caring people who find it rewarding to be there to help the community live better lives through higher education.*

Peace is in my heart, because I know that this sister is looking upon all of us, smiling. Her body is whole, her spirit lives, and she is with our Father and all those who gone before us.

Peace and love to you all, Roxanne Banguis.##imported-begin##Roxanne Banguis##imported-end##

August 18, 2010 at 04:11 PM



“ Dear Sweet Carla...Oh, it has been a long battle, now rest in peace. Carla was a key role model and assisted a lot of us, when we began college classes.

First in the class rooms in the YN Tribal School building, then the stage area of the YN theatre, as a satellite of EWU, which grew to be what is now Heritage College University!

Carla also had us take classes thru Fort Wright College of Holy Names.

If it was not for her help and knowledge, many of us would not have been able to afford to educate ourselves, and enrich our future. She was beside Vi and Jeannetta, makes me remember a lot of names. This was in the 1970's, so she has been around a long time, being there to help who ever she could, not too many people are like that and do it with such grace and professionalism as she did, then grow on to become your lifetime friend.

During an off season, I got involved with law enforcement, and stayed here, she never forgive me for quitting education, and I was so close to graduation.

So to her family, thank you for sharing her with us, her extended family, and our prayers go out to each of you.

To Carla, safe journey to you, we will miss you dearly.

Gina Jerry & Family###imported-begin##Gina Jerry###imported-end##

August 17, 2010 at 02:54 PM



“ Carla was an inspiration to me while I attended Heritage College in the 1980's. Her and her staff were mentors that got you through the paper trail so you would be able to attend class on time. She had the expertise in financial aid that made Heritage grow as it is today. She was always kind and considerate to the student needs. She is gone but not forgotten. Take care Frank. A friend Betty###imported-begin##Betty Sampson###imported-end##

August 17, 2010 at 12:46 PM



“ *A Memorial Scholarship is being established at Heritage University in honor of Carla Lamka, Heritage's first Financial Aid Director. This is a way for us to pay tribute to the dedication Carla gave to students in helping them receive the financial aid that made their degrees possible. She loved her students and her family so much. Carla's dedication is a model for all of us.##imported-begin##Kathleen Ross##imported-end##*

August 16, 2010 at 08:23 PM