



Linda Garcia-Kinzel

August 28, 1950 - January 18, 2021

Gwendolyn Johnson was born on August 28, 1950 at King County Hospital in Seattle, Washington. Gwen's Birth Mother Mary was from Monroe, Louisiana and her Birth Father was unknown. Shortly after birth, Gwen was placed with a foster family in Seattle where she remained for the first three years of her life. We had the opportunity to meet and get to know the family 45 years later. There was no question where Gwen received her big heart, compassion and empathy that was the essence of her life.

In July of 1953 Gwen was placed with Daniel and Nicholasa Garcia among with their sons Robert, Dan Jr and David in Wapato, Washington. In March of 1954 she was adopted and became Linda Garcia. Linda grew up in Wapato and later Toppenish. She now had an extended family and was especially fond of her maternal grandparents and the Espinoza aunts and uncles. Linda had an adventurous childhood including climbing a water tower that required police/fire and rescue. At age 17 she graduated from High School and moved on to attend the University of Washington. Thankfully a new concept called Student Loans allowed her to complete a degree in Psychology. At the "U of Dub" she met lifetime friends Louise and Mitsu and experienced an intellectual and cultural awakening.

After Graduation, Linda went to work for DSHS Employment Security, and a new group of people became part of her circle. Later she transferred to Child Protective Services for the next 12 years. She was a very good Social Worker and highly regarded by her Associates, Police, and Court System.

Unfortunately, during this time her Mother Nico's health declined and she spent several years helping and caring for her until she passed away in January 1989. Linda often reminisced fondly of this time and the lasting legacy of her Mother's resourcefulness and amazing cooking. In 1990 Linda experienced a paradigm shift much to the surprise and some trepidation of her friends. She met her future husband Bill and became a Stepmother to Bill Jr, Nicholas, Amanda and later Grandson Cameron. Linda changed her Career Path with DSHS from CPS to Adult Services, they bought a home that remains with many holiday memories and 30 years of life experiences. She retired from DSHS in 2004 after 30 years maintaining contact with many friends she made during that time.

Linda started camping designing with tents soon to evolve into a motorhome. She loved basketball, attending sonics games and watching the NBA. She also learned to play Golf and attended the final 3 days of the 1998 PGA championship at Sahalee watching her favorite, Tiger Woods. Linda loved to travel. She really felt at home in New Orleans and the Bahamas. She also enjoyed a Honeymoon cruise to Mexico, and several trips to Hawaii. Linda's health started to suffer in 2010. First with a bout of cancer that was eradicated with surgery. A year later another bout of cancer was taken care of with surgery and radiation, unfortunately a side effect left her with severe lymphocele. In 2014 she developed a severe infection from the 2010 surgery that left her in Harbor View for 45 days. Remarkably she returned home wounded but not giving up.

2020 came along and all the challenges took its toll. Linda spent most of the year either in the hospital or a nursing home. She went into the hospital for the last time on November 5th and remained there until January 17, 2021 when she was moved to Cottage in the Meadow, she could finally have visitors.

Linda passed away January 18th Bill and her close lifelong friends Arnold and Norma, Lori and Keith and Judy said Goodbye.

There will not be a funeral or memorial service by her request.

Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Garcia-Kinzel*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Linda was a dear friend having worked with and around her for many years. She never lost her spirit to fight and was always positive. She said she was ready to go.*



Linda/Larry Rabe - February 03, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ *Linda was such a dear friend. I had the opportunity to work with her at Employment Security and at DSHS. She was always so upbeat and even if you hadn't seen her for quite awhile, she could just pick up where you left off the last time you saw her. Like no time had passed. She was such a wonderful person and a great friend and I will miss her very much. My condolences to her family.*

Dixie Ross - February 03, 2021 at 12:45 AM



I knew Linda from being her co-locate at DSHS in Wapato. She was so intelligent and kind hearted. I remember her chili for a fundraiser. She was kind to my daughter and sister. My condolences to her husband Bill and extended family.

Janet Gone - February 03, 2021 at 04:18 PM

MS

*Prayers for Bill and the family. I remember I gifted her with a beaded check holder. She oohed and aahed over it. Then she told me "I'm going to put it away." "Silly, you have to use it in order to show your appreciation." I have good memories of Linda. Marian Squeoeh
February 7, 2021 6:51 am.*

Marian Squeoeh - February 07, 2021 at 09:52 AM

AN

“*Linda was always so up beat in the office, she was always so sweet to me. You could always hear her laughter coming down to my area of the office. Rest in peace Heaven has a new Angel on the block.
-Andera T. Zagelow*

Andera - February 01, 2021 at 02:52 PM

DI

“*Dearest linda,
You were truly a great sister to me and an awesome confident listening ear to me and will miss your shoulder to lean on and all your calls from you too. You fought a hard and long battle and you always were a praying warrior too. Your love for life and family, and mostly your deep love for your husband, Bill were always forthcoming as you would always say, “God truly blessed me and I’m so grateful!”
I will miss you very much but I know you are there in heaven with my Raymond and both of you taking care of all your family’s and love of your life, Bill.... till we meet again love you very much, Linda
(Gwendolyn Johnson) love you, cuz
Diana Ibatuan*

Diana Ibatuan - January 31, 2021 at 07:21 PM

RL

“ Dear Linda: You were a good friend - you watched my kids grow up. After I moved, you and Bill came to visit and I appreciated it so much - talking about "old times". You even got to sample some oysters - from South Bend - "the oyster capital of the World". I miss visiting with you - your sense of humor and positive outlook. I know you and you Mom are having a great time together. Rosemarie LeClair

Rosemarie LeClair - January 31, 2021 at 06:17 PM

JG

“ I love you Aunt Linda, you are a big part of my life, you will always have a special place in my heart. I miss talking with you and visiting with you and uncle Bill. Thank you for everything you guys have done for me. I'm so glad we got to be close and spend a lot of time together. I love you Aunt Linda,

Love your nephew Jeremy

Jeremy Garcia - January 31, 2021 at 04:36 PM

DG

“ To my Beautiful Sister,

I know, I didn't say this enough but, I love you, and thank you for all the things you did for the family, and mom and dad. You were such a beautiful person. All I can say is I love you, I love you, I love you.

Your Big Brother,

Dan Jr.



Dan Garcia - January 31, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ Linda, you and I shared so many memories and laughs since I first became your sister in law in 1968. Through the years we had many more memorable times. I love you always and will miss talking to you for an hour at a time. I am having "your" summer party here at my house in memory of you. We are all making homemade tamales like your mom taught me to make. Please come. Love, Jan

Jan Wernitsch-Briggs - January 30, 2021 at 08:07 PM

RF

“ Heartfelt condolences to Bill and family. Linda was a good friend with whom I shared a lot of memories, especially back in the 70s. She was such a good friend and even a protector saving me from getting into more trouble than I care to admit! She was a tremendous friend for whom I will forever be thankful! I love you, Linda! Rest in power and peace.



Ramona Flores-Cavazos - January 29, 2021 at 10:57 PM

JM

“ Oh Linda, so many memories! I can't even begin. 46 years you were such a blessed constant part of our lives. Thank you for that gift! You are now at peace. Love you..will miss you every day. ❤️

Judie Mitchell - January 29, 2021 at 10:37 PM

PH

“ Paula Hull lit a candle in memory of Linda Garcia-Kinzel



Paula Hull - January 25, 2021 at 03:16 PM

NR

“ Linda your resting in peace now with all the angels in heaven.
Miss you my beautiful, I'm thankful that i got to meet you even for a short time.
You always be in my heart.



Norma R. - January 23, 2021 at 01:02 PM

MO

“ Linda was a beautiful soul that I had the honor of knowing by caring for her at memorial. she was a bright light that lit up the room. Linda you will dearly be missed and I hope you get to read all the books you could ever want in heaven.

Mollie - January 22, 2021 at 07:46 PM

EC

“ Eloise Cummins lit a candle in memory of Linda Garcia-Kinzel



Eloise Cummins - January 22, 2021 at 05:12 PM

EC

“ Condolences to Bill and family.....thinking of you during this time of sorrow.....Glad Linda and I kept in touch or I'd pop in for short visit.....Thanks for taking such good care of her, Bill. You are appreciated for all that you did to make her safe, secure and comfortable! XOXOXOXOX cousin, Eloise Garcia-Davila de Cummins here in Kennewick, Wa

Eloise Cummins - January 22, 2021 at 05:11 PM

KH

“ *Kelly Hoon lit a candle in memory of Linda Garcia-Kinzel*



Kelly Hoon - January 22, 2021 at 03:56 PM