

HALVERSON- WALSER, Donnetta



A celebration of life to honor former Monroe Mayor Donnetta Halverson-Walser will take place 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017, at the Rock Church Monroe (16891 146th St. S.E. #145, Monroe).

Born on July 21, 1943, Donnetta was raised in Jerome, Idaho. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1966, teaching in Morton, Washington before moving to Monroe in 1967. Donnetta's life was filled with grace, love, accomplishment and community advocacy. She passed away Thursday, December 22, 2016, with Fred, her husband of 45 years, at her side. Donnetta dedicated her life to service, spending 28 years in public education and 32 years in local politics, including service on the Monroe City Council, the Monroe Civil Service Commission, the U.S. 2 Safety Coalition, the Snohomish County Senior Services board of directors, the Snohomish County League of Women Voters and two terms as Monroe's mayor. She is survived by cherished family members including her sons and daughters-in-law: Scott and Stacey and Matt and Kimberly; her grandchildren, Morgan and Nathan, born of Matt and Kimberly; her brother, Gordon Halverson; niece, Candace Burnikel and nephew, Rod Stevens.

Donnetta was best known for her kindness, compassion, elegance and unassuming strength. She was commended for her extraordinary skill as an educator and her steadfast commitment to the betterment of her community. No task was too formidable for Donnetta.

She made a lasting, positive impact on those who knew her, including family members, countless students and numerous professional colleagues.

Friends are invited to share memories of Donnetta during the celebration, which will include a catered lunch by Ixtapa Mexican Restaurant of Monroe. In lieu of flowers, guests may donate to the Monroe Public Schools Foundation Donnetta Walser Memorial Scholarship. In recognition of Donnetta's passion for literacy, new and gently-used adult and children's books will be collected during the event for distribution to the Monroe School District and Providence Hospital.

A special room rate of \$113.31, including tax, is available at the Best Western Sky Valley Inn (1-877-794-3111), located at 19233 S.R. 2 in Monroe. Reservations must be made by March 18, 2017, and guests should specify the Walser Celebration of Life Memorial when making

Donnetta Halverson-Walser: 1943-2016

Donnetta was not only an amazing woman but an amazing asset to our community. She had a heart for service and spent a lifetime living her life's calling.

Donnetta Halverson graduated from University of Idaho with a teaching degree and spent her first-year teaching in Morton, WA. After that she moved to Monroe after being hired by then Monroe School District Assistant Superintendent Gene Elledge to teach in Monroe. This was the start of a 27-year career for Donnetta. Donnetta loved being a teacher, she especially was proud of the work she did with disadvantaged students doing her best to give them a hand up as they went through high school and then moved on in life. Many of her students made it a point to contact her to give them an update on their lives letting her know it was only with her help they could get over a hard time in their life to become very successful.

Donnetta retired from her position as a teacher with Monroe Public Schools to run for the Monroe City Council and became the first woman to serve in that position. In 1970 Donnetta was awarded Outstanding Young Women of the Year by the League of Women Voters and she went on to become Mayor of Monroe. She was instrumental in bringing so many wonderful projects to fruition, such as forming a partnership with the Rotary Club on Monroe to build Rotary Field "Home of the Miracle League", as well as serving for 9 years as the Vice Chair on the US 2 Safety Committee.

Donnetta maintained strong working relationship with leading State representatives such as Governor Booth Garner, Senator Patty Murphy, Senator Maria Cantwell and then State Representative and now Senator Kirk Pearson. In 1980 Donnetta ran for County Council and lost by only 7 votes.

Donnetta passion about education and community were areas of focus she made her life's work.

Donnetta's stand was her stand on how important reading was to young children, she took every opportunity she had to remind young parents she would meet how important it was to read to their children which of course she did at home with her own children as well.

The Donnetta Halverson-Walser Memorial Scholarship is being a great testament to the life of a woman that truly loved her heart every day whether it was teaching children in our community or working hard on behalf of community projects that were important to her.

Fred Walser and his family are creating the Donnetta Halverson-Walser Memorial Scholarship to honor the woman that besides being the amazing community activist she was most importantly to them an amazing wife, Mother and Grandmother. The example she set for her own children will be what is most important to her family.