



Marilyn J. Vanina

August 24, 1947 - March 7, 2021

Marilyn Vanina, long-time Butte educator and former Dean of Women at Butte High School, passed away Sunday, March 7, 2021 at the age of 73. She was born in Butte on August 24, 1947 to June and Julius Vanina and raised in Elk Park on the family ranch.

Marilyn graduated from Butte High School in 1965 as the valedictorian of her class. She then attended Western Montana College in Dillon, graduating as valedictorian of her class with a Bachelor's Degree in secondary education. After receiving a Master's Degree from Western, she attended the University of Montana in Missoula where she obtained her Administrative certification. Following her own educational endeavors, she set forth on a long journey of educating and supporting the youth of Butte.

In 1969, Marilyn accepted her first teaching position as a sixth grade teacher at the Emerson School. One year later, she accepted a position at Butte High School teaching typing and shorthand. She was appointed as Dean of Women in 1983, a position she proudly held for 35 years until her much deserved retirement in 2018. Marilyn was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Butte Teacher's Union. She was a dedicated school district employee for 49 years.

She loved her job and since she never had children of her own, she treated all students as if they were her children. Marilyn enjoyed watching their success through the years. She was instrumental in offering guidance to troubled students or those in need of special attention to get them through tough times. She was very caring and well respected by students as well as faculty. Marilyn created many fond memories with family and friends over the years. She loved traveling and toured Europe, the Caribbean and Hawaii. She enjoyed gambling and along with family had some great times in Las Vegas. She played piano, enjoyed playing pinochle and games with family and friends especially around the holidays.

Marilyn shared many life adventures and special moments with her long-time companion, Bob Fournier. Their relationship lasted for more than 50 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, June and Julius Vanina; grandparents, Fred and Irene Searle and Mose and Elvira Vanina and their family Elmo, Lydia and Mario; nephew, Mike Thomas; niece, Cindy Bergey; brothers-in-law Don Thomas and Larry Dunville; special uncles Red Vanina and Fred Searle and cousin Shawn Searle.

She is survived by her long-time companion, Bob Fournier; sisters, Sue (Max) Decker and Diane Dunville; niece, Lisa Kerbersky and her family; nephews Neil (Michelle) Decker and their daughter Ellison; Casey (Laura) Decker and their children Jack and Ben, and niece Amy Decker who was very dear to her heart. Also special aunt, Pat Searle; cousins Judy [Tom] Kiely and their family; Dave (Barb)

Searle and their family; Joan (Bill) Filpula and their family and Leo Calcaterra and his family.

Marilyn's family would like to extend a very special thank you to the staff at St. James Healthcare and Copper Ridge Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center for their excellent care and compassion during this difficult time.

Because of her lifetime commitment to education, her family requests donations in Marilyn's memory be directed to a scholarship fund to support Butte High School students, c/o Sue Decker, 47 Elgin Drive, Butte MT 59701.

Cremation has taken place. Private funeral services will be conducted this (Thursday) morning at 11 o'clock. Those wishing to attend the service via ZOOM may do so at the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/95328482761?pwd=YIVQZU10WVJDK2tGcThsZIZYRTR1QT09>

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

3910 Harrison Avenue
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Marilyn and I were best friends. She was the smartest and kindest women I had ever known.*

We met during our educational careers. We had some very good times. When we were together we always seemed to have good laughs. Marilyn passing has left me with a heavy heart! I will miss her a lot.

Jim Hope and family

Jim Hope - March 11, 2021 at 06:22 PM

CP

My deepest condolences to the family of Marilyn Vanina. She was a wonderful lady. Marilyn was a co-worker of my mom Alyce Bull. My mom retired in 1990. She was head librarian at Butte High school. My grandparents Daniel Sr. and Olympia Parini owned a dairy farm not far away from the Vanina family in Elk Park. My father Rinaldo Parini was 1 of 18 children. The youngest of the 18 children a son died at birth.

chris parini - March 18, 2021 at 02:59 AM

RR

“ *Our Condolence Suzy Diane Bob and all the Family She will truly be missed! From the Rodoni- Bugni Family*

Randy Rodoni - March 11, 2021 at 09:50 AM

KP

“ *Thank you Ms. Vanina for all your years at Butte High, thank you for always being that person that would give us good advice and guidance and if we were having a tough time, your doors was always open with a smile. I'll miss seeing you out and about with your friends, you are the sweetest lady 🌻🌸🌻 Kellie Parini-Jangula*

kellie parini - March 11, 2021 at 08:18 AM

KC

“ I have great memories of Marilyn having been her hairdresser for 20+ years, she always had good advice and funny stories, she was a wonderful woman to look up to. ❤️

Kimberlee church - March 10, 2021 at 10:55 PM

DJ

“ I am so very sorry to read of Marilyn's passing. The world has lost a lady who truly loved and understood children. Her positive attitude, her willingness to listen, and her desire to do what was best for each child will live on forever in her students. Working with her for the three years that I did, was one of the highlights of career and the memories of her will stay with me forever. God's speed Marilyn, you will be missed.

Dr. Glen Johnson - March 10, 2021 at 10:32 PM

MM

“ We shared many happy times at the Oasis casino. I will miss the times we both picked on Bob. He didn't stand a chance with the both of us harassing him. Marilyn loved hot dogs and dishes of peaches. I will very much miss her.

Marcy Muster - March 10, 2021 at 08:32 PM

CM

“ A lovely woman, a legend that saw many of us through high school, myself and my daughter. I think it might have been my typing that caused her to change into becoming the Dean. She was forever classy and hadn't changed a bit in those 49 years. I'll miss her dedication, she was thrilled to renew her educator's license through me for an additional 5 years. So sorry for this loss - Cathy Maloney

Cathy Maloney - March 10, 2021 at 06:47 PM

MU

“ So sorry to hear about Marilyn's passing. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed by many. Our sympathy to Bob and family.
Chuck and Maura Uggetti

Maura Uggetti - March 10, 2021 at 05:09 PM