



Shirley Ann Groff

August 27, 1933 - October 18, 2022

With heavy hearts, our family is sad to announce the passing of Shirley Ann Groff of Butte, Montana. She died with her family by her side at the age of 89 after a valiant battle with cancer. Her birth on August 27, 1933 in Dillon, Montana to John and Ida (Hartwig) Hand, made Shirley part of the fourth generation of early day pioneers which included ranchers and miners. Shirley initially attended a one-room school in Argenta, Montana and graduated from Beaverhead County High School in 1952. After giving birth to her four children, Shirley went on to Western Montana College graduating in the spring of 1968 with a Bachelor's of Science in Education. Then during the summer of 1975 she earned a Master's of Science in Education.

After a 32 year career teaching fifth graders, Shirley retired in 2000, but she never stopped teaching. We all have fond memories and special stories to tell as she continued teaching until the end, handing down to many generations — her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, generations of fifth graders, and all who wanted to learn — her love of nature, the sciences, and history. We all unknowingly became naturalists, scientists, and historians as she consciously observed our curiosity and took advantage of what Christa McAuliffe referred to as “Teachable Moments.”

After her retirement she became a world traveler visiting Alaska, sailing the Hudson Bay, Mexico, Greenland, Iceland, Germany, France, Antarctica,

Uganda, the Holy Land, and a trip spent with the National Geographic sailing around the horn. Between all her travels she remained active with a number of local, state, and national organizations. One of Shirley's most significant honors came in 2001 with an appointment by Governor Judy Martz appointing her to the Board of Trustees of the Montana Historical Society. Shirley took great pride in her membership to the Daughters of the American Revolution and rose from all the ranks of the Silver Bow Chapter to become Montana State Regent. In addition, Shirley remained active as a member of the Sons and Daughters of the Montana Pioneers long after she served as President between August 1998 and August 2000. She was the recipient of the Award of Merit for Historical Leadership in 1988 and the recipient of the President's Award in recognition of her contributions of time and effort in 2003. In addition, Shirley donated countless summer hours in Virginia City working to restore clothing. She was most proud of the contributions she made to the publication of *Dreams Across the Divide — Stories of the Montana Pioneers*. Her love for plants led her to a membership of the Montana Native Plants Society and donating countless hours to Butte's Mining Museum, planting and keeping summer flowers happy and beautiful. While there she also worked countless hours in the archives restoring and preserving historical documents for the museum. In addition, Shirley was a proud life member of the Montana Mining Association.

Shirley was predeceased by her husband Dr. Sidney L. (Sid) Groff Retired Montana State Geologist, her oldest son, Byron C. Seybold, step sons Wesley "Scotty" Hunt, Joh Groff, and step daughter, Shelby LaDon (Hunt) Sullivan; she was also predeceased by former husbands and fathers to her children Clyde Seybold and Wesley William Hunt.

Shirley is survived by her sister, 100 years young Louise Shafer of Dillon Montana; her children Delbert (Kathy) Hunt of Dillon, Montana, Marvin Hunt (Stacy) of Helena, Montana, and Dr. Michelle Hunt Olsen of Springfield,

Missouri. Grandchildren Clari Ann Olsen Bahr (Brandon) of Carrollton, Missouri, Nathan Hunt (Sara) of Dillon, Montana and Kayla (Cole) Dorwart of Colorado. Six Great Grandchildren also survive: Emma Lee and Landon Bahr of Missouri, and Dillon, Logan, Layne, and Isla Dorwart of Colorado. Step daughter Billie (Tom) Oliver adds to the family two step grandsons Tim Miller, Steve (Debbie) Miller, as well as two additional step great grandchildren Kelsey and Jacob Miller, who add two Great Great step grandchildren, all are of Columbia Falls, Montana.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home in Butte, Montana; Monday, October 24, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. with burial in the Mountain View Cemetery, Dillon, Montana at 1:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with all of you ❤️. Sharon Grace

Sharon Grace - October 21, 2022 at 02:22 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Groff.



October 21, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ The Oliver & Miller Families purchased the Count ry Basket Blooms for the family of Shirley Ann Groff.



The Oliver & Miller Families - October 21, 2022 at 01:15 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Groff.



October 21, 2022 at 11:42 AM

RL

“ With *SINCERE SYMPATHY R.I.P.*



Rick Later - October 21, 2022 at 10:52 AM

SD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. This is a wonderful tribute to Shirley. She sounds like an amazing woman who lived a very rich and full life. Wishing you moments of peace during this difficult time.*



Stephanie D. - October 20, 2022 at 11:05 PM

ND

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. It is never easy to lose those we love, and Shirley was an amazing woman. Thank you for the beautiful tribute to celebrate her life.*

Nannan Dong - October 20, 2022 at 10:44 PM

MA

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing her story. She lived such a rich life and she will be greatly missed.*

Mark - October 20, 2022 at 10:31 PM

DN

“ *What a wonderful tribute to an amazing lady. My thoughts are with your family at this time.*

Daniela Novotny - October 20, 2022 at 10:20 PM

CH

“ Deepest condolences from our family to yours. Shirley was certainly an amazing person who touched a lot of lives during her lifetime. Her story is truly inspiring, thank you for such a wonderful dedication.

Cynthia Hagenhoff - October 20, 2022 at 10:06 PM

TS

“ This is a beautiful tribute to Shirley. She was an amazing woman. Strong, accomplished and loved by so many.

Traci Sooter - October 20, 2022 at 09:04 PM

MA

“ Dear Delbert, Kathy and your entire family. We are so sorry for your loss. Mary & George.

mary - October 20, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Groff.



October 20, 2022 at 07:27 PM

MO

“ 3 files added to the album *Shirley Ann Hand Groff*



Michelle D Olsen - October 20, 2022 at 05:55 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Shirley Ann Groff.



October 20, 2022 at 04:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - October 20, 2022 at 12:22 PM

TS

The obituary is a beautiful tribute to Shirley. She was an amazing woman. Strong, accomplished and loved by so many.

Traci Sooter - October 20, 2022 at 03:28 PM

KM

What a beautifully written obituary. I'm sure Shirley would be pleased with how her life is reflected upon.

Kate Mendenhall - October 20, 2022 at 04:04 PM

DS

Sounds like Shirley lived a full and happy life. What a wonderfully written account of her life.

Dee Siscoe - October 20, 2022 at 04:50 PM

DC

Beautiful obituary!. She had an amazing life. I'm sure she would be pleased.

Darla Collins - October 20, 2022 at 04:55 PM

HB

Shirley was a true Lady, gracious Mentor, and a wonderful Friend. I am so glad my last memory of Shirley was at her home when she was baking bread just a few months ago. She was the strongest woman I know and had a strong faith in the Lord. She had an amazing life and I was blessed to be a part of her life. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Love Helen Brown (DAR)

Helen Brown - October 21, 2022 at 12:59 AM

RH

I am deeply sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing such an endearing written testimony of Shirley's remarkable life and legacy. My love and prayers are with you all.

Rita Hagenhoff - October 21, 2022 at 10:37 AM

RH

a precious memory to treasure

Rita Hagenhoff - October 21, 2022 at 02:46 PM

CG

I am so sorry for your loss. Your beautiful, well written summary of her life portrays so well her strength, love of life, faith, and incredible endurance that blessed her with 89 remarkable years.

Shirley was blessed to have her family and children by her side as she left to meet her Lord.

*She will be missed greatly.
Carol J. Green*

Carol J. Green - October 28, 2022 at 04:14 PM



Shirley and I had a wonderful friendship so many years ago. Her commitment to education was our shared passion, but I had no idea of how many other worthwhile directions her life took. Wonderful obituary. I can see her smiling ❤️

Georgene Cachola - November 02, 2022 at 02:20 PM