



Mrs Diana Lynn Purser

December 14, 1949 - May 22, 2016

DIANA LYNN PURSER

Diana Lynn Purser, beloved mother, grandmother and retired Bartlesville educator, rode the Happy Day Express to Heaven on Sunday, May 22, 2016 after a courageous six-year battle with breast cancer. Born in Great Bend, Kansas in 1949 to W.L. and Lucille (Coburn) Dickson, Diana spent the first three years in Guymon, Oklahoma in the panhandle before moving to Woodward, Oklahoma where her father owned and operated the local photography studio. After graduating with the Class of 1968, Diana attended the University of Oklahoma where she pledged Kappa Delta Sorority, and earned both her bachelor's and master's degree. There she met the love of her life, Roger Kenneth Purser, whom she wed in 1972. The two commenced their high school teaching careers in the Oklahoma City area where Diana taught English, Writing and Creative Writing, and Roger taught Chemistry. A few years later, the couple was blessed with the birth of their loving daughter, April.

The couple and new baby embarked on the adventure of their lives in 1981 by moving to Germany to teach for the Dept. of Defense School System. There they placed membership in Faith Baptist Church, which had a fantastic Children's Church program, with whom Diana gladly volunteered to help with the puppets and skits.

After eight years of European adventures, the Pursers relocated back to

Oklahoma to teach at Diana's alma mater in Woodward. It was here that Diana started a writing event called WritingWood, and also directed a community theater production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Here they also joined the First Baptist Church, where she used her experience with Children's Church in Germany to start a similar program. She worked with that program for eight years until 1997, when the family was ready for another adventure. They accepted positions at Bartlesville High School, and Diana introduced her WritingWood Competition to her new school system. She was active in Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority of Professional Educators, serving in all capacities and elected positions. She also was a member of WordWeavers, a local writing group, publishing books and essays and winning numerous writing awards at the Bartlesville Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contests, as well as the statewide Oklahoma Writer's Federation. And retirement couldn't keep her from accepting the new challenge of teaching college level English when Oklahoma Wesleyan University asked Diana to be an Adjunct Professor in 2013.

Diana loved being an active part of the Bartlesville Southern Baptist Church with her family, where again she was instrumental in starting and maintaining a Children's Church program. And always the adventurer, she spent four summers on mission trips to the Ukraine to teach the English language and the Bible to underprivileged children. Truly, Diana's enthusiasm, energy and strength was an inspiration to all those who knew and loved her.

Besides her loving husband and daughter, Diana is survived by April's husband Danny Young and their two children, Logan and Anna, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; and one sister, Andrea Gunning, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A memorial service to celebrate Diana's life will be held at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at Bartlesville Southern Baptist Church, 5111 Nowata Road, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in Diana's name to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs Diana Lynn Purser*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Mrs Diana Lynn Purser*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I had her for English my 10th grade and 12th grade years in Woodward, OK. Class of '93. I still remember her Grammar in a Nutshell. I remember her little step stool she used in order to talk to the football players. lol She was a great teacher.*

Alicia Myers - December 03, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ *I was one one many many students she had while traveling to Ukraine in early 2000s. She gave us hope and brought sunshine. Thank you Teacher for opening doors up for so many kids.*

Petro - July 25, 2021 at 09:01 AM



“ *To this day I remember singing in 7th grade: "Which, what kind of, how many, and whose things." Yes, I still remember Mrs. Purser and Grammar In a Nutshell from 31 years ago at Zweibruecken High School. I hope Dr. Purser is still well. Jim James, Class of 1991.*

Jim James - February 22, 2018 at 10:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs Diana Lynn Purser.*



May 29, 2016 at 07:27 AM



“ *I have talked many times about her "Grammar in a nutshell" and how it was hilarious that as seniors were cutting and pasting like 1st graders. But we learned so much! She was an amazing English teacher.*

Carey Lake Welden

Carey Welden - May 28, 2016 at 12:24 PM



“ *Loved, loved, loved Mrs. Purser's English class. "Grammar in a Nutshell" and "Writing Wood" are two of the things I remember about her. She made us recite the school song word for word! She would be proud to know that the high school student body sings our school song at the end of every ball game. I remember painting Precious Moment children on the puppet stage at church with her. She will be missed. Prayers for the family.*

Brandee DonCarlos-Gartrell

Brandee Gartrell - May 28, 2016 at 10:48 AM

JW

“ I had the absolute privilege and pleasure of meeting Diana and Roger in 2011 when they went above and beyond helping Children's Musical Theatre to prepare for shooting a shotgun for the Annie Get Your Gun musical! We spend time visiting about the show and lots of things as we spent months preparing and practicing with the cast members. Then each time I saw them around Bartlesville, I had the privilege again to continue our friendship!! So sorry for your loss....Diana was a dynamic woman who made a difference in everyone's lives that she touched!!! She'll be missed!!!

Jan Watt - May 27, 2016 at 08:27 AM

WH

“ I was a classmate of Diana's in Woodward. She and her family lived above the photography studio and she would have tea parties up there. We all thought it was so cool to live on Mainstreet. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Wally Robinson Haub.

Wally Haub - May 26, 2016 at 08:48 PM

KW

“ I got to know her through therapy and we became friends. She always had a song for every situation and a smile for everyone. She will be missed

Kay witte - May 26, 2016 at 08:09 PM

SM

“ What a wonderful influence on my life! She was one of my favorite teachers. Till I see her again. Prayers and Love for all her family.

Shyla Meadows-Funk

Shyla Meadows-Funk - May 26, 2016 at 07:10 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs Diana Lynn Purser.*



May 26, 2016 at 04:57 PM



“ *She was the sunshine itself. Huge heart and strong spirit. Always talked about April and Danny.*



Olesya Svystun - May 26, 2016 at 04:06 PM



“ *I remember Mrs. Purser as a woman that was always ready to give a smile and a hug. She had a contagious smile, laugh and she wasn't shy about using them :). She was a bright spirit!*

Emily Boldrin - May 26, 2016 at 02:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs Diana Lynn Purser.*



May 26, 2016 at 01:33 PM

DB

“ *Andrea. I am sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Debra (Hunter) Brown.*

Debra Brown - May 26, 2016 at 01:19 PM

CZ

“ *Andrea, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May the peace of Christ be with you.*

Cheryl Fletcher Zapata

Cheryl Zapata - May 26, 2016 at 11:48 AM

MA

“ *Diana was such a wonderful, smiling lady whose courageous battle inspired many. Her enthusiasm for life was so appreciated! Her lovely smile blessed us all. Diana is celebrating her Lord in Heaven today, and we look to seeing her again some day. We love this family!*

Mark and Terri Abbott - May 26, 2016 at 10:37 AM

CM

“ *Diana's love for the Lord and the joy and enthusiasm that she displayed in all she did will be a lasting legacy for those she left behind. She was a ball of energy and always had a smile on her face. I was blessed to have known her and worked with her. We will all miss her here on earth, but heaven rejoiced at her coming and I am sure she rejoicing in the Presence of the Lord, her loved ones, and the great cloud of witnesses of which she is now a member.*

Carolyn Morgan - May 26, 2016 at 10:07 AM



“ *This is how I remember Diana Purser: Contagious smile, positive attitude, volunteer deluxe, encourager, teacher, friend to many, great cheerleader for her grandkids, loving her family, and a love for singing always a song in her heart that she would just belt out. She will be greatly missed, but is rejoicing with her Lord and Savior and probably has a puppet show lined up and ready for Children's Church. No more pain, no more sorrow, she moved from a tent to a mansion May 22. We love you so much April. Praying for you and your dad. Bernard and Paula Young*

Paula Young - May 25, 2016 at 09:50 PM