Darlene Marie Rice

October 27, 1959 - October 21, 2009

Darlene Rice, 49, lost her battle with kidney cancer at Ray Hickey Hospice House on October 21, 2009. She was born Darlene Marie Flattum in Downey, California on October 27, 1959. In 1964, her family moved from Southern California to Creswell, Oregon where she attended Pleasant Hill schools and graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1977. The following year, she attended the University of Oregon and worked in the family business, Eastside Laundry & Drycleaners in Eugene. She also worked as hostess at the Black Angus in Eugene for a short time. She married Ed Rice, the founder and former owner of International Sportsmen's Expositions, Inc. in 1984 that began a remarkable love affair that lasted nearly 26 years. The deep love they shared amazed and brought much joy to their friends. Together they traveled the world. Over the years, she enjoyed traveling with Ed on hunting and fishing expeditions over four continents. In 1987, Darlene's liver failed. She became the first comatose recipient of a liver transplant at Baylor Hospital in Houston, Texas. Following her recovery, she returned to their home overlooking the Columbia River in Camas, Washington that same year. Darlene was a long time resident of Camas and enjoyed volunteering in the community . She volunteered in hospitals, working with liver transplant patients as well as teaching computer skills to those who needed her help.Darlene had a passion for animals, music, and computers. She is survived by her husband Ed, mother Arlys Flattum of Florence, OR, brothers Doug Flattum (Penny) of Cypress , CA and Richard Flattum (Yvonne) of Brush

Prairie, WA; sisters Pam Biggs (David) of Veneta, OR and Carole Shay (Mark) of Eugene, OR, as well as 12 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Norman Flattum. Memorial contributions may be made to Ray Hickey Hospice House.

Tribute Wall

0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 09:35 PM

CS

Darlene was also a TRUE farm girl. She and I spent hours with our pet calves as they grew. We even rode them when they were full grown She had her heifer Cathy. Until Dad finally broke down and bought us the horses. Darlene had a natural love for all animals.

Carole Shay - May 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RR

I will always have the fondest memories of Darlene. I was fortunate to have been invited to spend a wonderful weekend with Ed and Darlene at their beautiful home in Washington, with its majestic views of the mountains and river valley. I must say that as hosts, my wonderful cousins had no equals. And Darlene was unforgettable. To this day, I have never met anyone like her. She was always so giving and so very devoted to making everyone around her feel comfortable and special. The bond and mutual devotion between Darlene and Ed was wonderfully obvious and ever-present. I'm very saddened by her loss. My thoughts are with you, Ed and with Darlene's loving family. Cousin Rick

Rick Rice - October 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

I was so glad to have recently spent time with Darlene & Ed. Darlene made me feel as if we had known each other forever. I wish it were so. What a sweetheart she was. She'll always remain in my heart. Thank you Ed.....Love, Connie Rice Ward

Connie Rice Ward - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MF

Darlene was the kindest, most caring, and truely my best friend. We shared so much fun and laughter growing up together. My life was better because of the faith and hope that Darlene had in Jesus! She was a shining light!! Love always, Marliene

Marliene Fuller - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

D(

Wishing the Family Peace and my foundest memorie was the time she wore the big green costume to school. What great times we had.

Diane Ellis (Green) - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM