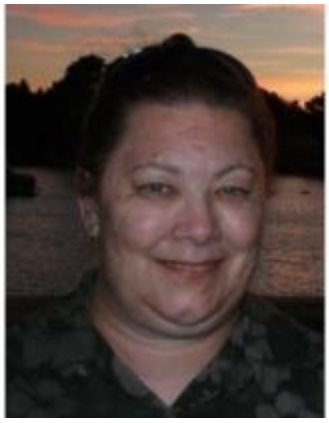

Deanna M Phillips

March 25, 1961 - July 12, 2022

Deanna Marie Phillips
March 25, 1961 - July 12, 2022

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS
Please make a donation to:
The Washington State Science & Engineering Fair Endowment in honor of Deanna Phillips
P.O. Box 2412, Silverdale, WA 98383
www.wssef.org

As a long-serving Board Member her vision and dedication supported all students to recognize their potential and master success. Your endowment gift in Deanna's honor ensures students continue to thrive.

Deanna was born in Tacoma, Washington to parents Joseph and Josephine Spencer. She was the oldest of 5 and a true leader in her family while growing up on Mercer Island and graduating Mercer Island High School in 1979. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Gonzaga University class of 1984. During this time, she met and dated George Phillips, whom she later married. They celebrated 36 years of

marriage together.

Before even graduating University she was hired by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and worked her way up to Senior Electrical Engineer before retiring after 37 years. While working at BPA she started volunteering for the Washington State Science & Engineering Fair (WSSEF). Over her 25 years of volunteering, she helped thousands of students to recognize their potential and master success. She was also a FOUNDING member of the South West Washington Science & Engineering Fair (SWWSEF). For more than 15 years of her career she also volunteered for many great educational groups and organizations including the Portland Saturday Academy, the local Regional Science Bowl and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

While married, Deanna welcomed her greatest joy, Christina Elizabeth into her family. While raising Christina she supported her in whatever she wanted to do including swimming, science fairs and showing dogs. Deanna was very proud of Christina and all of her accomplishments

Other interests and hobbies included quilt shop hopping with George and sewing the blocks she would gather into quilt tops for Christina to quilt. She also showed her family pets to AKC championships and beyond. She also succeeded in earning a gold cup championship in international shows.

She was preceded in death by her parents Josephine and Joseph Spencer. She is survived in death by husband George Phillips, daughter Christina Phillips, sister Laura Spencer, brother Gary and Scarlet Spencer, brother Tom and Marcie Spencer, sister Marie and Tom Brotherton and a large extended family.

Rosary: preceding funeral
Funeral: 11am St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Burial: Fir lane Spanaway, WA 7/21/22, 11:00 AM Reception to follow

Everyone is welcome to attend one or both services.

Tribute Wall

0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 03:30 PM

JM

I was a student who went to the 2019 International Science and Engineering Fair with Deanna as my mentor. She was always kind, helpful, and just a really great person to be around. I want to end this with a little funny story that I remember with her.

I was 15 at the time, in 10th grade. I was at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona, and Deanna was the mentor/guide for a solid group of students from Washington. At one point, she really needed to get a hold of me, but I didn't have my phone, so it went to voicemail. At the time, I had figured out how to make a custom voicemail, and being 15, I made a voicemail that pretended to answer the phone as Leroy from the Southwest Construction Company. And for one reason or another, Leroy just couldn't hear anything and kept asking "what? can't hear you".

So I turn the corner and I see Deanna on the phone, talking to Leroy. Even to a fake construction worker on the phone she was kind, and politely asked Leroy what his phone number was to make sure it was the same one I had given her. And, since he was hard of hearing, he just kept asking her to repeat. Eventually she saw me, and I broke out laughing. She was a great sport.

After the science fair was over, she would send me opportunities related to what my science fair project was and even connected me to an employee at BPA. That's just who she was.

Julian McOmie - November 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JB

I'm sorry to hear about Deanna's passing. She was a respected BPA employee and volunteered at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair for several years. She was a leader in BPA Technical Operations. I did not know her well, but she always left an impression on me whenever we talked. She will be missed.

John Brank - July 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BW

I had the immense pleasure of working alongside and being mentored by Deanna at BPA. Deanna was an incredibly intelligent, kind-hearted, and genuine person who loved to share her endless knowledge and see others succeed. She would go out of her way to make sure people felt welcomed and invited to sit and talk with her in her office whenever they needed. She has touched so many lives, especially young students pursing STEM careers. Mentoring was in her blood. She spent hours teaching me about compliance and grid operations. Even though she spent the last few years battling desperately to get healthy and stabilized, she never wanted to let go of her critical responsibilities at BPA. She would even call in from the hospital to check in for updates and provide her knowledge and feedback. I will always cherish the moments I got to spend with her and learn from her. Her famous rambles will be missed. She truly touched my life and my heart and I am deeply pained her family, her BPA family, and the world did not get to keep her longer.

Britt West - July 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JE

Deanna will be missed by her colleagues at BPA. She was a pioneer as a female Electrical Engineer and a founding member of our regulatory compliance program. She was such a force to be reckoned with that she became mononymous (you know she'd want you to look that up). "Deanna." Rest in peace.

Jenifur - July 19, 2022 at 12:00 AM

YF

Tom and family, So sorry for your loss. Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family.

Your partners at PTSM, Adam, Bim, and families - July 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MM

Please accept our prayers from Hilary and myself.

Michael and Hilary Moran - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

VS

I am so proud of the example you were to women who love science and engineering. Sending prayers for your family and friends. God's speed dear friend. Vicki

Vicki Smith - July 16, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AP

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

A Memorial Tree was planted for Deanna M Phillips - July 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LY

I will miss you most at family gatherings smiling and greeting everyone. Your annual Shop Hop trips where you stayed with me so many years after your quilting jaunts each day are going to be missed as well. Your excitement over those blocks gathered for the quilt of the year and talks of your daily adventures will be sadly over. Or your excitement of the ribbons you and Edison earned "playing dog show" will hang in honor of your dedication to my breeding program for ever. You will be missed so much.

Lynn - July 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM