



Mary M. Sykes

APR 27, 1937 - OCT 15, 2013



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 8



Mary M. Sykes

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Mary Margaret (Murray) Sykes

Born Mary Margaret Murray on April 27, 1937 to William Braly Murray and Edna Louise (Egger) Murray in Portland, Oregon. She had two brothers, Robert Murray and Barry Murray, and three half-siblings, William, Katherine, and Donald Murray.

Mary's family lived in Eastmoreland for part of her early childhood and then moved to Cactus Drive in Southwest Portland. Mary attended Ainsworth Elementary and St. Helens Hall in Portland, and Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. While in Hawaii, she met a U.S. Navy sailor from North Carolina named Randolph Sykes, fell in love, married, and started a family. While Randy was in the Navy, the family was stationed in Hawaii, Guam, and Bremerton, Washington. Mary and Randy had seven children including Randolph, Norman, Michael, Gerald, Deborah, Darryl, and Duane. They settled in the rural Chapman area of Scappoose and Mary resided there until Randy's death in 1989, when she relocated to downtown Portland. She loved living in the city, with its many opportunities for entertainment and shopping within easy walking distance and her favorite place, the Multnomah County Library.

Her career began as clerical support for her mother's staffing agency, Staff Employment. She also worked for the City of Portland as staff to Commissioners Mike Lindburgh and Margaret Strachan. After retiring from over 20 years of public service at the City of Portland, Mary shared time between her retreat in Vernonia and her downtown apartment, eventually settling full-time in Vernonia. She enjoyed living in downtown Vernonia where she could easily walk to shopping, restaurants, the parks, and the library and hosted large gatherings of friends and family during the Vernonia Jamboree. After the 2007 Vernonia flood devastated her home, she returned to the Scappoose area to be closer to family.

Mary loved to read books and sew, was a fabulous cook, loved to travel to the Oregon



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Coast, and spend time with her family. Mary vacationed many times in Melaque, Mexico and enjoyed genealogical research trips to Tennessee and North Carolina with her niece, Bernadette and other family.

Mary Margaret passed away surrounded by her family on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 due to complications related to lung cancer. Mary is survived by her brothers, Bob and Barry Murray, half-brothers Bill and Donald Murray, her children, Randy (Lorene), Norman, Michael (Gail), Jerry (Lynn), Debbie, Darryl (Shawna), and Duane (Tammy), thirteen grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edna and William Murray, husband, Randy Sykes, and half sister Kathy Murray. You can share stories about Mary or comments with the family on the Columbia Funeral Home's web site at

<http://www.columbiafh.com/obituaries/Mary-Sykes/>

A memorial service and celebration of life with friends and family will be held on Saturday, November 16th, 2013 at 12:30 pm at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 51555 SW Old Portland Road, Scappoose




Events


Mary M. Sykes

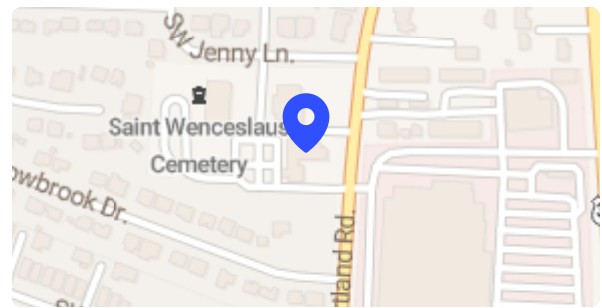
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Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, November 16, 2013

 12:30 PM PT

 **St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church**
51555 SW Old Portland Road, Scappoose OR





Tribute Wall

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Norman Sykes shared an album called **New Album Name**.



January 5 at 9:09 AM



Julie A. Mann lit a candle in honor of Mary.



October 29 at 4:20 AM



Shawna Sykes shared an album called **New Album Name**.



October 21 at 4:09 PM



Norman Sykes January 5 at 8:57 AM

She may not of been the greatest mother! But none were ever greater! Miss you Mother Mary



Julie A. Mann October 29 at 4:19 AM

My thoughts and prayers are with Mary's entire family. I only knew Mary for a short time but in that shot time was spent many hours talking and laughing. She was a wonderful person and her family was truly blessed for having Mary for their mother.



Kathy Cooper Ashley posted:

So sorry for your loss, you are in our thoughts and prayers... The Larry Ashley family

October 19 at 1:56 AM



Robyn Grabhorn posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Hugs and love, Robyn and Bruce

October 17 at 5:07 PM



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Judy Merwin posted:

Sykes Family, I am so very sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. She was a strong and wonderful Lady. Hold on to the memories. Judy Merwin (Center)

October 17 at 4:47 PM



Diane October 18 at 10:17 AM

It is difficult to lose a parent -- we are thinking of you.



Media

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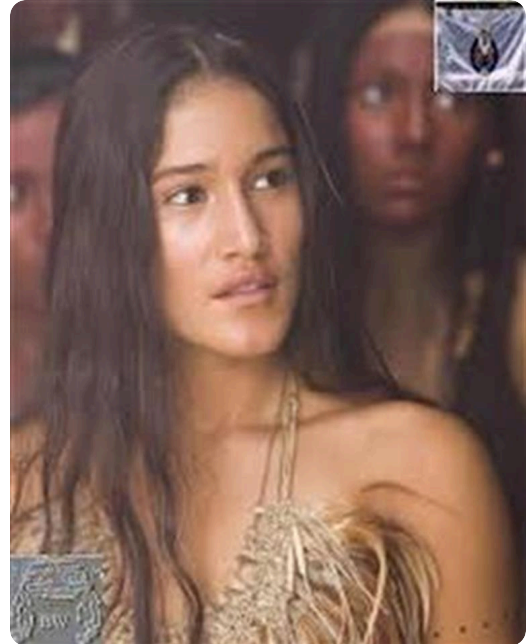


Norman Sykes shared 2 photos to the **New Album Name** album.

January 5 at 9:09 AM



Mom, sons Michael, Randy, and Norm



Pocahontas sister... Cleopatra your 10th direct gr grandmother..so kool



Media

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Shawna Sykes shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

October 21 at 4:09 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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