



# Glenda Kay Boehler

AUG 6, 1946 - AUG 26, 2011



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# Glenda Kay Boehler

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**A** Celebration of Life will be held, 1:00 PM, Friday, September 9th at Sunset Park Community Church, 174 Sunset Blvd. St. Helens, Oregon. Glenda passed away August 26th in Portland. She was 65 years of age. In honor of Glenda's wishes, the family requests that you wear bright colors to the celebration.

Glenda was born August 6, 1946 in Yakima, Washington to Oscar A. Boehler and Opal L. Rush. She was the 2nd of three daughters. Raised in Yakima, Washington, the family moved to Portland, Oregon where she graduated from Grant High School in 1964. Glenda returned to school after the birth of her two oldest daughters and completed her Associates degree at Portland Community College.

A lover of nature, she moved from Portland to St. Helens in 1990 where she made her home with her family among her beloved trees and woods. Glenda valued life and the living of it which translated itself into championing the rights of others. A firm believer in promoting dignity and justice, Glenda was active in various civil rights organizations including the Rural Organizing Project where she worked on campaigns to prevent discrimination and increase awareness and equality for all, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

This belief in human rights could also be seen in the way she made friends with everyone she met. Her infectious laugh and ready smile coupled with her huge heart meant that every person she spoke with felt like they were the most important person in the world. A collector of souls, outside of her family, Glenda's friends were some of the most important relationships in her life.

In addition to championing others, she also was a pioneer in the organic food movement. A founding member of Food Front Cooperative Community Grocery Store in the early 1970's, Glenda continued her practice of healthy living by practicing yoga with her "yoga loft" friends and supporting her local Community Supported Agriculture Co-operative.



## Obituary

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With her children grown, Glenda was looking forward to a new chapter in life that included a chance to fulfill long held dreams and chart new courses of independence. Glenda's sudden illness and death came as a shock to all who knew and loved her. It is with the celebration for the life she did live that we know she would want to be remembered by now.

Glenda is survived by her husband; Donald Lee Ritthaler of St. Helens, Son-in-Law Steve Siebers, children; Tana Siebers, Leanne Stewart, Elizabeth Martin – Boehler Christopher Boehler and Step-daughter Kailynn Ritthaler, grandchildren; Michael Garcia, Dylan Siebers, John Stewart, Cole Benshoof, Samantha and Karli Ritthaler, great grandson; Silas Garcia, sister; Shirley Clark. Preceded in death by step-son, Monty Ritthaler and Sister Donna Costello.

Remembrances can be made in her name to: Rural Organizing Project PO Box 1350 Scappoose, OR 97056 or [www.rop.org/support-rops-work-in-rural-oregon](http://www.rop.org/support-rops-work-in-rural-oregon),  
On-line condolences can be made to the family at; [www.columbiafh.com](http://www.columbiafh.com)



## Tribute Wall

**Glenda Kay Boehler**

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**Anonymous** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Although she was not a close friend , I am honored to have known her and thru Elie she was a friend to me. She will be sorely missed. All my best to you.##imported-begin##Sharon MacArthur##imported-end##

September 9 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

So sorry Tana for the loss of your Mother. I know she will be sorely missed. Love ya girl.##imported-begin##Anne Graham##imported-end##

September 8 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Steve and Tana, These condolences come in writing much too late but they have been in my heart and mind for weeks. I am so sorry for your loss. I guess I would say it is a loss for all of us, though none so great as yours I can only imagine. I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the "Beauty of Glenda"... the positive influence she always exuded, the incredible strength she couldn't help but share, and the amazing energy I believe she is passing on through us all, even though her body has left us. The way I first met Glenda was through those "rose colored glasses" she secretly seemed to wear, accepting everyone for who they were at the time without judgement and always believing that if we could do better, we would and/or we did!! She was more caring and loving than most, trailed tiny seeds of that care and love everywhere she went, I suspect without knowing nor intent, I imagine that was just the way she was. I have met many people in my 54 years on this earth and few have left such a spiritual connection to my heart and soul as Glenda. She was a person I could imagine just sitting with for hours or days, saying little and yet, being very comfortable with and even changed by, just being in her presence. I have always felt a profound uniqueness about Glenda, and a closeness that is rare even though I physically had such limited time with her. A kindred spirit of sorts? Glenda was VERY special, owned a smile to not be forgotten and shared hugs to always be remembered. I loved her. I hope she knew!! While I would say "Wild horse could not keep me from being there with you on Friday to celebrate her life", the truth is, I cannot. As tears stream down my face, I am faced with challenges here that do not allow me to be there. I however believe and feel that Glenda is here with me helping me face these challenges as I choreograph each day, one day at a time. Please know I will be wearing bright yellow on Friday and will find a quiet place away at school at 1:00 to embrace her spirit and privately celebrate her life with you all in spirit, even if I have to stuff myself in a middle school locker to find a place!! I think she would want me to try to laugh a little, or ALOT!! My love and prayers are with you. When it is possible, I will share a great hug in remembrance with you, OR LOTS!! All my love, Marji##imported-begin##Marji##imported-end##

August 28 at 5:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Glenda Kay Boehler**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Miss you dearly, Aunt Glenda. I wish I could have said "goodbye". I know that you will be looking down on all of us from Heaven, bless your heart. I know that all those who went before you will be waiting with open arms to see you once again.##imported-begin##Catherine Smith##imported-end##

September 7 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

We enjoyed the times we spent with Glenda. She had a way to make you smile. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.##imported-begin##Chris & Kimberly Siebers##imported-end##

September 6 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Tana and Steve , I am very sorry to hear about Glenda passing away. She was taken away from you way too soon. My heart goes out to both of you. I am sorry that I will not be able to come to the Memorial. I will keep you in my prayers. Best wishes, Love Bonnie##imported-begin##Bonnie Siebers##imported-end##

September 4 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I have alot of good memories of Glenda from my childhood. For many years she was like a second mom. That's how she would introduce herself to people at my work. I will miss her and i will always remember her.##imported-begin##Krissy##imported-end##

August 31 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I saw Glenda at many sporting events supporting our kids. Always smiling and joking. Always happy to talk about her family. She is one lady who always touched my heart.##imported-begin##Tracey Humbird##imported-end##

August 31 at 5:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

I will be happy to attend Glenda's service brightly attired! Her obituary is well written and really describes her wonderful personality. It will never be quite the same without Glenda in our yoga classes. She will be missed. Love to all the family.##imported-begin##Chris Eisenschmidt##imported-end##

August 28 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Glenda was my friend, and I'll miss her. I'll remember her contagious laughter, her sense of humor, her kindness, her approach to life, her sense of justice and her love. From the very first time we met we recognized a common spark in one another. From that time on it was as if we had always known each other. We shared our experiences, our wisdom, our hopes our joys & our sorrows. Throughout our years of friendship she was my rock. No matter how upset or angry or sad I was, I would walk away from a conversation with Glenda smiling. She made me laugh when I didn't know there was anything to laugh about. I was so very fortunate to have known her and my world now will always have a Glenda-sized hole. Goodbye my ?Brenda?, I'll miss you.##imported-begin##Susan Conn##imported-end##

August 28 at 5:00 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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