Martha S. Colbert

November 6, 1957 - May 23, 2014

Martha S. Colbert
1957-2014
Martha S. Colbert passed away at her home in Napa on May 23, 2014, after a battle with peritoneal cancer. Her husband and sister were with her. Martha was born in Tucson, Arizona, on Nov. 6, 1935, to Richard and Arveda Verhaegen. She grew up in Modesto, California, graduating from Modesto High School and Modesto Jr. College, where she met the love of her life, Lavon Colbert. She graduated with a bachelor's degree and a teaching credential from Sacramento State College. She and Lavon were married on Aug. 18, 1957, and moved to Napa, where they have since resided.
In Napa, Martha taught at Westwood Elementary for two years then moved to Silverado Jr. High School, where she taught science for 38 years. She was known for having active laboratory classes and famous for her classroom menagerie consisting of reptiles, amphibians, and almost anything that could be kept in a science classroom. She was an avid collector of crystals, fossils, shells, and Indian crafts and artifacts.
Martha was active in Girl Scouts, having earned her Curved Bar Award, the highest award given at the time. She enjoyed counseling at Camp Jack Hazard YMCA camp and directed the YMCA day camp. In Napa, she became a member of the Saddle Jackets, the Rolling Ridge Riders, and the Napa Valley Horsemen’s Association, holding many offices in each. She and Lavon were instrumental in the development of Skyline Park and she served on their board for a number of years.
After her retirement in 1995, she became a volunteer for Community Projects where she worked upstairs weekly on craft projects and was known as their “button lady” because she carded thousands of buttons for sale. She was also active in the Napa Valley Retired Teachers. She was a faithful member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.
Horses were the center of Martha’s life and she owned many different ones; her most loyal friend being her beloved Raudi. She was an active endurance competitor and over the years rode many of Northern California’s trails.
She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Lavon Colbert of Napa; her sister, Ritchie Musick of Fairbanks, Alaska; nieces Michelle Renfrew and Monique Musick, and nephew Richard Musick, all of Fairbanks, Alaska. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A Mass of Remembrance will be offered on June 4 at 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in Napa followed by a celebration of life at Skyline Park social hall.
Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Napa Valley Hospice or to St. Jude Childrens's Hospital.

Previous Events

Mass

JUN **4**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
981 Napa St.
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 226-9379
http://www.stjb1858.com/

Celebration of Life

JUN **4**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Skyline Park
2201 Imola Ave.
Napa, CA 94559

Tribute Wall

Martha S. Colbert

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM

Martha S. Colbert

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM

DG

Marty was a vibrant, loving, and wonderful human being, whom I have always admired and respected. I feel fortunate to have had the honor of knowing her all of my life. She was the type of person who could come into a room and light it up with her jubilant and positive personality. Always with a smile, a giggle, and a sparkle in her eyes. She was one of those people who brought goodness to everything that she did. She was an amazing science teacher as well. As a student, I remember her having a creative and fun trick up her sleeve daily. She was dedicated and genuinely wanted us to learn. Her class was always fun and challenging. We definitely had to work hard to earn our grades, but she was by our side to help us achieve them. This lady was definitely one in a million. She is someone who has made a beautiful impression on my life and I am certain, many, many others. I will miss her very much. My heartfelt love and sympathy goes out to her loving husband Lavon and family. She was definitely a gift to us all. Blessings, Debbie Garner-Hale

Debbie Garner-Hale - June 03, 2014 at 02:04 AM

SL

I had Mrs. Colbert for a science teacher in 1968 at Silverado Junior High School. She was my all time favorite teacher. She taught me to love science above all other subjects. I remember she had a small alligator in her class, a rattlesnake (that we fed mice to....ew!) and a rat that we all took turns putting on our shoulders. She taught us how to make shaving cream (rose scented) and was always demonstrating different experiments. I remember her teaching us a sex ed. in class.....the 1968 version....which was the first time boys and girls were allowed to take this course together. So funny! I can't think of anyone who did not love her class. I still say I wish I had become a scientist.....she made it all so exciting. Rest in peace my favorite teacher! You truly were an awesome teacher and person! Sandy Leveque

Sandra Leveque - June 03, 2014 at 10:25 PM