



Shirla Jean Collins

OCT 26, 1948 - JAN 29, 2017



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Shirla Jean Collins

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Shirla Jean Rowe Collins, 68, of Sandy, UT, passed away peacefully on Sunday January 29, 2017, surrounded by family. Born October 26, 1948 to Bert Rowe and Alice Christensen Rowe in Pocatello, ID, she was one of a kind and will be sorely missed.

Shirla married and later divorced Richard (Louie) Knudsen. She married Merlin Howard with whom she had 2 daughters: Hillary Howard Davis and Alyson Howard Balter; they later divorced. She then met and married, the love of her life J. Stewart Collins, who preceded her in death, May 1, 2014.

Shirla graduated from Pocatello High School then continued her education at Idaho State where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Education and eventually continued on to earn her Master's degree in Education.

Shirla spent over 30 years touching the lives of many young students. She specialized as a special education teacher as well as a reading specialist.

She taught in Blackfoot, ID, The Fort Hall Indian Reservation in ID, and then later moved to UT, where she taught at Millcreek Elementary, and Calvin Smith Elementary in which she retired in June of 2011.

Shirla truly enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest! She had many great loves and true friends, up until the very end. Shirla loved her family, her dog Derby, her many different groups of friends, teachers, TNO group, Book Babes, a long list of childhood friends, and hot air balloonists.

Shirla was proud to be a licensed hot air balloon pilot since the mid 1980's. She participated in flying events throughout the West. One of her brightest highlights was flying with Stew, in the 1988 Calgary Olympics.



Obituary

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Shirla truly was a one of a kind and was a firecracker even in her final hours, keeping us all laughing in her hospital room.

We would like to thank the STICU nursing staff at IMC for your dedication to our beloved mother. Particularly Jami "STOP IT!", Matt "sweet spot", and Zach "face" who began their shift with a kiss to my mom's forehead and often ended it with the flip of a bird to each other.

Shirla was preceded in death by her parents; Bert and Alice Rowe, brother; Robert Rowe, and sister, Caroline Rowe.

Shirla is survived by sister, Janet Rowe Hancock; daughters: Hillary Howard Davis (Jason Shum), Alyson Howard Balter (Adam), and her 6 grandchildren: Rylee Davis, Gavin Balter, Jordyn Balter, Jadyn Davis, Justin Davis, and Maddison Balter.

"Life is short. break the RULES FORGIVE quickly, KISS slowly, LOVE truly, LAUGH uncontrollably, And NEVER REGRET Anything that made you SMILE."

Please join us for a warm celebration in honoring the life of Shirla Collins Saturday February 4th from 1:00pm-3:00pm at The Woods on Ninth (6775 S 900 E).

In lieu of flowers please bring a favorite memory and/or story (we know you have one ☐) for us to look back and share with our kids for years to come.



Tribute Wall

Shirla Jean Collins

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Julie Howard shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This photo goes back to 1977 -- Shirla, Merlin, and that's Hillary at about 3 months old, if I'm remembering correctly. Hillary and Alyson, I'm so sorry for your loss. Please let me know if there's anything I can do -- Julie



February 12 at 7:24 AM



Hillary Howard Davis February 14 at 5:55 PM

I'm so glad you learned of this. I didn't know how to get a hold of you to tell you. I found this pic and it was displayed in a slideshow at the funeral. Thanks for reaching out.



Tami Merrill posted:

Dear Hillary and Allison, This is Tami Buckley Merrill. I just have to share a memory about Aunt Shirla! Right around Christmas time, when I was five years old, I got a bad case of pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. When I arrived at the hospital, I had to have IV's put into both of my thighs. Next, I had to be strapped to my bed so that the IV's wouldn't tear out. I was sad, miserable, and so scared. One day, Aunt Shirla showed up to my hospital room. She told me that she had just come from Frazier's (the local grocery store). While she was shopping, she felt a tap on her shoulder. "You will never guess who it was that tapped me on the shoulder!" I had no idea. "It was SANTA CLAUS!" Aunt Shirla told me that Santa said to her, "Aren't you Tami's Aunt?" She told him she was. "Well, I know she is in the hospital. I would really like to take her a gift, but I am so busy this Christmas season, that I don't have time. Would you take Tami this coloring book and these crayons for me?" Shirla told Santa that she would be happy to make a delivery for him! I don't remember much about being five years old, but I will always remember Aunt Shirla's visit that wonderful day as she made a special delivery for Santa Claus!

February 5 at 3:50 PM



Melita Kuburic shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This is Shirla coming to my American Citizenship graduation .She was the only one from my family that came except my husband and kids ! I will never forget that 🌹❤️



February 4 at 5:09 AM



Aly Balter February 15 at 11:27 AM

She loved your family so very much!



Tribute Wall

Shirla Jean Collins

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Jonathan Hughes posted:

Ms. Shirla was such an amazing person. My mom Pat Droubay, who worked with Shirla, had a very strong friendship. I remember going to Shirla's house for birthday parties, and other celebrations, her pool was the perfect hangout spot. It's so sad that such an amazing spirit has passed."It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but retire a little from sight and afterwards return again."—Ralph Waldo Emerson, Essays: Second Series

February 4 at 5:02 AM



Erika Mccarthy posted:

I worked with Shirla at Mill Creek Elementary school. I don't think lunches were ever boring for us teachers. When Shirla came in the room with another story we would just sit there and then laugh laugh laugh. She was an amazing woman with an amazing heart and amazing stories to tell every Monday about her weekends. My heart is breaking. much love to you Shirla on your new adventure Ps I personally think Shirla died of a broken heart.

February 4 at 4:00 AM



Berdene Arruda lit a candle in honor of Shirla.

Shirla and Stewart lived next door to us for many years. We shared laughter and tears through the years. Shirla has such a sense of humor. Shirla, we love you. Olley and Berdene



February 3 at 1:25 PM



Nykola Patton posted:

I worked with Shirla at Calvin Smith. She was a very compassionate and caring teacher. She loved the students she worked with! Even the days she was not feeling well she came to school with a smile on her face. She was always upbeat and a pleasure to be around. I loved working with her.
Nykola Patton

February 3 at 6:39 AM



Melita Kuburic lit a candle in honor of Shirla.

I miss you



February 3 at 12:53 AM



Tribute Wall

Shirla Jean Collins

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PJ

Patricia Hansen Johnston lit a candle in honor of Shirla.

I remember Shirla as always being a sweet girl. She became my Aunt when her mother married my grandfather Heber J. Hansen and became Grandma Alice. Loved them all. My prayers and love to all of the family.

February 2 at 7:08 AM



JS

Julie Scott posted:

I met Shirla when we were 15 in Pocatello. We always had fun. Shirla had a driver's license before the rest of us and we would frequent our different hangouts. One time as we were heading for the underpass and Shirla was trying to slow down to make the turn the brakes failed and she accidentally sideswiped a new red Cadillac. Oh boy the policeman asked our ages (4 of us) all 15. And no citation was issued we all were scared we were going to jail! Another time she and I drove to our favorite drive-in for a space burger. I took my retainer out and put it in a napkin and accidentally threw it out when we were done eating! Halfway home I pleaded with her to go back and I dug it out of the garbage and we laughed all the way home! Lots of fond memories of our Shirla. So glad we reunited about six years ago! My best to her family and best friend Kathy! Julie McDonough Scott

February 2 at 5:56 AM



Hillary Howard Davis February 3 at 3:51 PM

Haha. I did that same thing with my retainer on a family road trip. I didn't beg to go back but she clearly thought it would be cheaper. We dug it out of garbage as well. She was not laughing. 😊

SH

Shannon posted:

We are so sorry to hear about Shirla's passing. She was always so fun and so nice and we really looked forward to hanging out with her at family events. Brian and Shannon Hislop and family

February 2 at 4:23 AM

TC

Teri Christensen posted:

Love and miss you, Shirla. You were such a light in so many people's lives. xoTeri :)

February 2 at 3:22 AM



Tribute Wall

Shirla Jean Collins

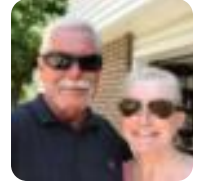
OCT 26, 1948 - JAN 29, 2017

RJ

Ron Johnson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

God Speed My Dear Friend ,,,, Love You Shirla

February 1 at 11:55 PM



FW

Faith Wallin posted:

I worked with Shirla at Calvin Smith. I loved her zest for life, her quirky sense of humor, her love of the kids she worked with at the school. She was such a great boss and taught me a lot about helping kids. Shirla was so courageous every time she had to have her chemo skin treatments. She didn't complain or whine about it, she just did it. She was an amazing example to me. My friend...you will be missed...I love you Shirla!

February 1 at 5:53 PM

SD

Shauna Demarco posted:

When my sisters and I were young, we would go and stay with Grandpa Heber Hansen and Grandma Alice. We would get to stay in Aunt Shirla's apartment there in Pocatello. We thought it was awesome to be able to stay in Aunt Shirla's apartment, sleeping on her fold out couch and playing with a stuffed chimpanzee that had a banana in it's hand that you could put in it's mouth. Shirla was my Mom, Elsa's Step-sister, but to us she was always Aunt Shirla. She will be missed! Love to all her family. Give Mom and everyone up in heaven a hug and kiss from us! Shauna Halling DeMarco - daughter of Elsa Mae Hansen Halling

February 1 at 5:24 PM

SS

Susan Scott posted:

Enjoyed Shirla's company in Seattle this past summer. Lost her glasses at the restaurant, it was so her & what was charming about her. Her friends treasured her & she them. Loved her family & Stuart.

February 1 at 4:22 PM



Tribute Wall

Shirla Jean Collins
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Kathleen Collins shared an album called **New Album Name.**



February 1 at 3:10 PM



Hillary Howard Davis February 2 at 5:29 AM

Aw! That's me and Lindsay and??



Susan Scott February 1 at 4:23 PM

So cute



Kathleen Collins posted:

Missing her terribly--just want to call and hear about her day--or just hear her voice.Struggling with the reality that she is really gone. 60 years of her in my life--I just don't understand how she can be gone.

February 1 at 3:08 PM



Betsy Bounds posted:

Cathy-I am so sorry for your loss. While I didn't know your mother, I know the wonderful daughter that she had and am sure that your loss is deep and difficult. My prayers and thoughts are with you.
Betsy Bounds

February 1 at 2:33 PM



Betsy Bounds February 1 at 4:45 PM

So sorry, I meant to address Cathy Collins as her friend. I met Shirla a few years ago with Cathy and she was so full of energy. I really enjoyed her and know she will be missed.



Amy Martsch lit a candle in honor of Shirla.



February 1 at 12:46 PM



Tribute Wall

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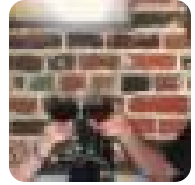
Sharon Smith lit a candle in honor of Shirla.



February 1 at 12:03 PM



Premier Funeral Services shared an album called **Memories Album**.



February 1 at 10:15 AM



Hillary Howard Davis February 2 at 5:30 AM

Together again! ❤️😭



Media

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Julie Howard shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 12 at 7:24 AM





Media

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Melita Kuburic shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 4 at 5:09 AM





Media

Shirla Jean Collins
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Ron Johnson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 1 at 11:55 PM





Media

Shirla Jean Collins
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Kathleen Collins shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

February 1 at 3:10 PM



Lindsay and Hillary with Emily.



Susan Scott February 1 at 4:23 PM
So cute



Media

Shirla Jean Collins
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Premier Funeral Services shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album. February 1 at 10:15 AM



Together Again



Memories only last if you share them

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



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