



Vera van der Veer Stephens

JAN 22, 1951 - MAR 1, 2021



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Vera van der Veer Stephens

1951-2021

On Monday March 1, 2021 Vera van der Veer Stephens passed away peacefully in her home at the age of 70.

Vera was born on January 22, 1951 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands to Adrianus and Agatha (de Boer) van der Veer. She graduated from the Hogereburgerschool A in 1969. Vera married her husband Robert Ellwood Stephens on May 1, 1976 in Zollikofen, Switzerland. They raised two daughters, Vanessa and Amber, while traveling the world for Robert's work. They lived in the Netherlands, Monaco, France, Germany, and the USA. Vera received a diploma in French Literature from the Université de Nice in 1978 and graduated from BYU, magna cum laude, in 1995 with a degree in French. She later received her teaching certificate in special ed and secondary education for French and German. For many years she taught French, German, math, and social studies to troubled youth.

Her faith and her family were most important to her. She chose to follow the example of her mother in serving The Lord. She loved and cared for people deeply and loved to be of service. If there was something she could do to help she would do it, even if it meant giving up hours or days. She was genuinely interested in people and in their lives. Vera loved her husband and children. She was a fun mom but still had high expectations for her daughters.

The last 25 years of Vera's life were marked by MS, various cancers and many other physical ailments, which she endured because of her faith. Throughout these years she continued to care for others by sending cards and flowers. Despite these difficulties, Vera felt that she had lived a fulfilling life.



Obituary

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Vera was preceded in death by her parents, Adrianus and Agatha (de Boer), and her brother, Alexander. She is survived by her husband Robert; her children, Vanessa (Christian) and Amber (Nolan); her siblings, Mia, Hebert, and Robert; and her grandchildren Bobby, Lucas, Amber, Mila, and Graham.

Due to covid restrictions, a graveside service will be held for immediate family only on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at the Bancroft, Idaho Cemetery.



Tribute Wall

Vera van der Veer Stephens

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NB

Natale T Bean posted:

Aunt Vera's laugh and her deep love and commitment to Uncle Robert "Bob" and her two girls Vanessa and Amber are firm memories from when I was growing up. Her visits when they lived in Europe were always so fun and as an added bonus we were each brought a BIG Swiss Chocolate that was in the shape of the first letter of our first name. I loved hearing her stories about living in Monaco and France. She absolutely LOVED and missed Holland so much. Being a Dutch citizen was so important to her and she took great pride in her country. Later in life as she became more and more riddled with health concerns, her beloved Netherlands health system came to the rescue and made many things possible that would have been far off wishes and dreams otherwise. When she gained son-in-laws and grandchildren she thought her heart would burst with love. We will miss you terribly as we have these past years of ill health. We are so very glad you have escaped the mortal pains you so bravely faced these past years.

March 2 at 3:45 PM

JL

Jill Levingston posted:

I have many fun memories of Vera! Taking late night rides in Steve's jeep! The fun we had at Girls Camp (the best genie ever). I loved her! She was a wonderful lady and a great friend! I am so very sorry for your loss! Love and prayers to all of you! ❤️

March 2 at 2:37 PM

CH

Casey Hurley posted:

My earliest memories of Aunt Vera are from when their family visited our grandparents in Idaho. She would always speak English except when my cousin got in trouble, she would switch to Dutch. And boy did Dutch sound scary! (Maybe if I could speak Dutch I wouldn't have to yell at my kids.) She was a very glamorous European relative. She always loved to tell funny stories about herself. I remember how she would tell about encounters she had with Americans who were a little shocked by her directness. I loved that she told you how she was really feeling. Her honesty was so refreshing. I loved to just talk to Vera. She always had a different perspective on things, but the thing that made her a great conversationalist was that she was so sincerely interested in what you had to say. She was always asking questions and curious about other people. We were BYU students at the same time and I enjoyed sharing our common experiences. The two things I will never forget are Vera's laugh--it seems like she was often laughing and just enjoying the humor in life--and the way she said Bob with a long-o sound. She loved Uncle Robert and I loved to see them interact. I'm grateful that she no longer has to face the health challenges that she endured for so long, but she will be dearly missed. Love, Casey

March 2 at 2:33 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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