



Yvonne Carol Howard

June 27, 2022 - June 27, 2022

Yvonne C Howard passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 27. She is survived by her wife, Lois Mikkila, two children, a stepson, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Yvonne was born in England in 1944 – a war baby, she always said. She was raised by her adoptive parents, Fred and Betty Howard. At age 21, she came to the USA to visit friends and never left. When she became a US citizen, she was proud that the ceremony took place in 1976 at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Most of her career was spent with the US Department of Health and Human Services. She was tasked with many initiatives, including literacy, welfare reform, workforce development, and repatriation of US citizens from Iraq during the Gulf War. After retiring, she became a Master Gardener and particularly enjoyed working on environmental projects with elementary schools.

Yvonne loved her family, her garden, traveling – especially road trips (she travelled cross-country numerous times), baking – her Christmas cookies were legendary, and hosting family and friends.

She was generous, always willing to give anything she had to anyone who needed it. She was a fighter for social justice. She was adventurous,

celebrating her 60th birthday by trekking in the Himalayas. She lived a full and interesting life – dropping details such as getting a bottle of champagne from Ringo Starr, dancing in a nightclub with Sean Connery, helping to deliver a calf, or volunteering on a political campaign with Ted Bundy (who later became infamous as a serial killer) as if they were ordinary occurrences.

Yvonne was able to find her birth mother in 2000. Though her mother died soon after, Yvonne was grateful to develop a relationship with her new-found half-sister. She had no clues as to the identity of her birth father, but that mystery was solved in December 2019 through a DNA match on Ancestry.com. Though he, too, had already passed, she was able to meet his surviving brother and her nieces, nephews, and cousins in Oklahoma just before the pandemic shut things down. Being warmly welcomed into their family was one of the happiest events of her life.

She will be missed by all who knew her. A private celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Donations in her memory can be made to World Central Kitchen (wck.org) or READ Nepal (READglobal.org).

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *My sincere sympathy,*

Colin and Cherry Sunderland - July 26, 2022 at 05:06 PM

SK

“ *My mom and I are so so sorry for your loss! We remember Yvonne was so warm person. We wish you can carry on, Yvonne will be in our memories for ever.*

Seija Kekkonen - July 22, 2022 at 07:01 PM

SR

“ *Lois, so sorry to hear about Yvonne. She was a special lady. Susan*

Susan Rosenbaum - July 19, 2022 at 01:50 PM

LL

“ *Dear Lois, I am so sorry for your loss. People don't always get a chance to find great love in this life but you and Yvonne clearly did. Together you accomplished great things and she will always be in your heart as you continue your journey. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

Lynne Levin - July 18, 2022 at 01:28 PM

DA

“ *Yvonne was a long time friend from when she lived in Washington State. My condolences to her loved ones. She will be missed.*

Darlene Aanderud - July 16, 2022 at 12:47 PM

TS

“ We are so sorry for your loss, your deepest condolences. Meillä on kauniit muistot kun olemme saaneet tutustua Yvonneen. Paula ja Tapani

Tapani Sillanpää - July 16, 2022 at 12:51 AM

KS

“ Yvonne was a longtime friend, starting from the days of Howard County NOW in the 70s. I'm sorry to hear of her passing. I know she will be missed.

Ken Stevens - July 12, 2022 at 03:33 PM

RJ

“ Our warmest condolences,

Raija&Vesa Jaskari, Liisa and Suvi Jylaskoski - July 10, 2022 at 01:15 PM

EM

“ With heartfelt condolences,

Eileen and Bill McDaniel - July 05, 2022 at 06:35 PM

BM

“ Yvonne was one of the most caring people I have met. May she rest in peace.

Brian Miller - July 05, 2022 at 03:26 PM

NC

“ Yvonne Carol Howard

Nancy Cordes - July 02, 2022 at 12:18 PM

NC

“ We first met Yvonne just a few years ago on Michigan’s U.P. at the 100th. birthday of Lois’s mother, Fanny(Lois and I are second cousins). The subsequent times we were at their home were great - good food, many laughs, many memories. Upon meeting Yvonne I could tell her life had been very interesting, full of helping those less fortunate, environment concerns, and learning about her family. We are sad that her life has been cut short; I’m sure she still had much she wanted to do. Yvonne will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Rest In Peace, Yvonne. Ernie and Nancy Cordes

Nancy Cordes - July 02, 2022 at 12:08 PM

RS

“ We are so very sad for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. we were so proud to welcome you two to our family. Love you, Uncle Ray and Aunt Pat Shamas, Jennifer and Sandy.

Ray and Pat Shamas - July 01, 2022 at 03:09 PM

BL

“ Yvonne was one of he kindest and most interesting people I've ever known. She will live on in my memories and in my heart.

Barbara Laricos - July 01, 2022 at 01:15 PM

MR

“ It was an honor to know such a caring and compassionate person. Yvonne will be missed by so many. Her garden and cookies remain legendary. So glad to hear the stories of how she found her birth family and the joy that brought her. Lois, your loss is immeasurable. May your wonderful memories help to get you through such a difficult time. Merle & Gary Ross

MERLE ROSS - July 01, 2022 at 11:27 AM

ML

“ *The Love family sends our deepest sympathy to Lois and family. We will always be grateful to her for her unwavering love to Larry. They are back together and she can help him with everything as usual.*

Marsha Love - July 01, 2022 at 09:15 AM

Jl

“ *Yvonne was such a loving neighbor. When my family and I moved into our home back in 2016 she was the first to welcome us to the neighborhood. She was always so kind and shared helpful neighborhood tips with us. I remember bringing my kids over to her home for holiday cookie parties which was always a treat. I will dearly miss being able to walk across the street for a chat about how we both hated the thousands of spiky balls that always fell from the trees. It was an absolute pleasure to have her as a neighbor. We miss you already. Be at peace.*

Joe Intique - June 30, 2022 at 08:44 PM

MP

“ *We've been Lois and Yvonne's neighbors since 1996 when we moved to Thunder Hill - two doors down. They hosted pool parties and Christmas cookie parties - encouraging neighbors to get together and get to know one another. Yvonne was always interested in what our boys were up to and would pass along information about potential job opportunities for them. Lots of memories. Sending our condolences and keeping Yvonne's family in our prayers. JD, Mary, John, Vincent, and Michael Parsons*

Mary, JD, John, Vincent, and Michael Parsons - June 30, 2022 at 08:42 PM

HL

“ As neighbors and friends of Yvonne and Lois, we had so many wonderful interactions, formal and informal. Yvonne was generous, kind, smart and knowledgeable about many things, especially nature, including birds and plants. She was an excellent cook and baker. Her jams, especially orange marmalade, was amazing. We will miss her. We trust that she is at peace. Harriet and Larry

Harriet and Larry - June 30, 2022 at 06:50 PM

AN

“ Yvonne Howard brought so much to our Thunder Hill School and community. She will be greatly missed

Anonymous - June 30, 2022 at 05:16 PM

MD

“ I know Yvonne will be missed by Denise and I but our loss could never compare with Lois's. Some people are born to be together and Lois and Yvonne were a wonderful example of that kind of happiness. We are broken-hearted and missing her so much.

Michael and Denise - June 30, 2022 at 01:32 PM

SP

“ We were blessed to have Yvonne in our lives. She was a wonderful person - so generous, thoughtful and caring. She will be dearly missed.

Stephen and Charlene Purcell - June 30, 2022 at 11:27 AM

BO

“ John and I are truly sorry to hear about the passing of Yvonne. Yvonne was a great boss and always kept us laughing. You all are in our thoughts and prayers! BJ and John Olson

BJ Olson - June 30, 2022 at 09:49 AM

AR

“ One of my favorite Master Gardener friends . No weeds in Heanen ,
Yvonne !

Anne Rivera - June 30, 2022 at 09:03 AM

WG

“ Yvonne was such a wonderful person. My condolences to her
family.

William Gray - June 30, 2022 at 08:42 AM

TL

“ We met Lois and Yvonne the fall after we moved to Columbia in
2005. Our families had an instant connection and we soon were
more like family than friends. We spent many Friday nights throwing
the ingredients of our refrigerators together and making dinner. We
spend holidays and birthdays celebrating. It was their pool that our
kids learned to swim in and their dogs that our kids loved and
played with. When we moved away, they drove to Niagra Falls to
meet us for a vacation and then they came to Idaho to see us. Lois
and Yvonne are sewn into the fabric of our family. I was thankful for
Yvonne's council both professionally and personally - especially
parenting teenagers! Yvonne was a person that gave her whole
heart and her whole self. I love her and I miss knowing that she is in
this world with us. She is forever cemented in our family and in our
hearts.

Traci L Leija - June 29, 2022 at 07:39 PM

RC

“ With loving memories of our cousin Yvonne.

Ron, Susan, Jessica and Courtney - June 29, 2022 at 04:48 PM

CK

“ *Missing Yvonne, a rock solid member of the Finn clan. I hope your grief becomes more and more filled with peace and comfort.*

Camille Kempke - June 29, 2022 at 03:10 PM

LB

“ *During 37 years of friendship with Yvonne, we enjoyed a mutual commitment to a variety of social causes, fun times around celebrations and holidays and just plain good times sharing quiet moments in her home or ours. She's been an important part of our lives and we will carry memories of her as she continues to live in our hearts. MaryAnn & Lissa*

Lissa J Brown - June 29, 2022 at 02:36 PM

KB

“ *Thank you for everything Yvonne. Rest In Peace.*

Kaylin Bradley - June 29, 2022 at 01:23 PM

AH

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Yvonne Carol Howard - June 28, 2022 at 12:57 PM