



## Norma J. Murray

February 12, 1936 - December 14, 2021

NORFOLK -- Memorial service for Norma J. Murray, 85, of Norfolk will be held at a later date. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and sister Norma J. Murray, from complications due to Alzheimer's. Norma passed in the evening of December 14th, 2021 at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation and Care Center in Norfolk, NE where she had been a resident for the past two and a half years. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Norma lived an interesting and varied life. She was born in Burke, SD on Feb. 12th 1936 to Oscar and Elsie (Lindwurm) Fode. She was the big sister to Mary Anne and Janice. Norma attended school at the McCumber Country School District #54, south of Burke but everything she needed to know, she learned on the farm. Her favorite horse was her Blackie. Blackie would wait for her at the end of every school day. She would jump up on his back and ride him – no saddle needed.

It was during this time that she met the Stahlecker family – there were 8 of them and all the boys were handsome! She caught Harold's eye though and he was determined to make her his wife. One October day in 1952, on leave from the Marine Corps, he came by the Fode farm and asked Elsie if he could marry her daughter. When Norma came in from the field, Elsie told her to "Go get dressed! You're going downtown to get a marriage license!" They were

married on Oct, 15th, 1952 in Gregory, SD. From there, Harold took his bride to San Francisco, where she would make her home in the Bay Area for the next 64 years.

Norma Jean and Harold raised their children Rick, Lorrie and MaryLee in Pacifica, CA mostly under the fog. Norma worked as a yard duty teacher, as a clerk in a children's clothing store and then at State Farm Insurance company. She loved her time at State Farm and retired after an 18-year career with them. She and Harold divorced in 1976.

Then, the universe contrived a mis-dialed phone call and she met the love of her life – Jack Murray. Jack and Norma were two peas in a pod. They bought a cabin on the Russian River where they spent many wonderful, happy, fun times. It was their favorite place to be. Everyone loved Jack and he loved Norma.

Unfortunately, they didn't get as much time together as they had hoped for and Jack passed in 1986. But the universe wasn't done with Norma yet. In 1997 she met her Significant Other Matt Hise. They both had traveling in their blood and in 1998 they sold what they had, bought a beautiful motor home and started traveling the country. Norma always talked about how much fun they had on the road and the friends they made in various cities. They spent many summers in Yankton, SD on the Missouri River.

With so many relatives in the Yankton area, there was always something for them to do or someone to visit. Sadly, Norma lost Matt to a brain tumor in the summer of 2000. Norma decided to return to the Altamont, a senior housing facility in Rohnert Park, CA. She kept busy there visiting neighbors, shopping, going out to lunch and/or dinner, participating in the activities and generally being as busy as she could be. It was almost impossible to catch her at home. She spent many hours at Mary Lee and Mike Tobin's house with her

grandchildren Shannon, Sean and Sheamus going to sports games, competitions and generally enjoying her role as Grandma.

Summers she would travel to South Dakota to visit with her mother Elsie Fode, in Burke, SD. Her sisters Mary Anne and Janice would also arrange to visit and they were lucky to have lots of family time. Norma was happiest when she was busy and on the move. She could strike up a conversation about anything, and she always had a smile on her face. She wasn't afraid to look silly yet she took great care with her appearance. She had great taste and was always very well put together. Even as Alzheimer's started to take away her memories, she never lost her sense of style or her ability to crack jokes and laugh. She had a great big smile and when she laughed, she put her whole body into it. You laughed with her because you just couldn't help it.

Her last few years were spent in Norfolk, NE. She lived for 2 years at The Meadows where she would walk the hallways and make new friends. When we went to see her, we had to "find" her because she was always visiting with someone, or outside in one of the rocking chairs, or in the dining hall being a typical social butterfly. A series of strokes took her socializing abilities away and she lived for the next 2-½ years at St Joe's Nursing Home. The staff there took excellent care of her and we are all grateful to them for their patience, love and dedication.

Norma is survived by her children Rick (Barbara) Stahlecker of Norfolk, MaryLee(Mike) Tobin of Windsor, CA, and Lorrie (Brad) Milton of Lakewood, CA. Her sisters Janice (Swede) Lindquist of Gregory, SD and Mary Anne (Del – passed) Carr of Ft. Collins, CO also mourn her passing. She leaves behind 6 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Also preceding her in death were her husband Harold, husband Jack and her parents Oscar and Elsie Fode.

If you want to say a little something to remember her – just grab a glass of red wine, life it up and think something happy. That's what she would do.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Norma J. Murray*



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - December 21, 2021 at 01:32 PM

ZW

*Loved seeing Norma with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren! I know you--Rick, Lorrie, and Mary Lee--have many cherished memories and may those remembrances soften the pain of your mom's passing. Thinking of you all!! ❤️ Zoie*

Zoie Wikert - December 22, 2021 at 01:02 AM

MT

*The best mother in law a guy could have. I was lucky man to have her in my life!!! Mike Tobin*

mike tobin - December 22, 2021 at 11:45 AM

TC

*Very nice video. She was a very sweet lady. Rest in peace 🙏❤️ Tricia*

Tricia Campbell - December 22, 2021 at 02:08 PM



*That was beautiful. She was an awesome woman who always had a smile. It is hard to realize she is gone.*

Cheryl Stahlecker - December 22, 2021 at 10:04 PM

MT

*Mom, I will truly miss you, my heart breaks to not see you again, but I know you are finally able to be free of built up energy that was trapped in a body that wouldn't quite work anymore, you are probably dancing all around with everybody.*

*You were the most loving mom, with a big heart of gold, we never hurt for anything, you were always there for us, even at our weakest moments. I hope we were able to do the same for you, when you needed us most.*

*The years of working with you at State Farm were the best, we had so much fun working together, and the fact that you retired from State Farm was a big plus.*

*My kids were so lucky in their early years to have had you for a Grandma, you would pick one of them up on Friday night after putting in a full day at work, they would spend the weekend with you, have their special time with Grandma, the following Friday night different grand kid, and start all over again.*

*Rest in Paradise Mom, you can now be with so many loved ones.*

*Our love & memories will always be with you*

*Watch over us!*

*Love you so much Mom!*

*~Mary Lee~*

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**Mary Lee Tobin** - December 23, 2021 at 12:59 AM

MS

*What a beautiful video honoring Norma who was so full of life. I know where Rick, Lorrie & Marylee (grandchildren too!) got there zest for life and humor!! Heaven is having one heck of a party.....remembering you...rest in peace.*

*My thoughts and prayers to the family. ❤️ Michele Scott*

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**Michele Scott** - December 25, 2021 at 04:36 AM



“ Norma J. Murray

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October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM

FT

“ To Norma's family: You don't know me from anyone but I go almost as far back as her sisters do. From 2nd - 8th grade we attended District 54. Together we took the 7th and 8th grade finals in Burke. Scary but for Norma that was easy. She was so smart. We were confirmed together at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jamison, NE. After I left for boarding HS at Concordia, Seward NE, we saw each other only once when my family and I visited you with my husband's brother (Will Timmerman) and family. They attended the same church in San Francisco. To read your tribute was most interesting to me. The Jamison/Naper Stahleckers were all part of a close community. I still hear from John and Esther's daughter Luann, wife of a cousin of mine. Thank you for letting me peak in your FB back door to learn how she was doing. I hope awareness of the faith we confessed on that day about 70 years ago was of comfort to her and to you as well.

*Floy Heermann Timmerman  
Brighton, CO*

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**Floy Timmerman** - December 30, 2021 at 04:40 PM

MC

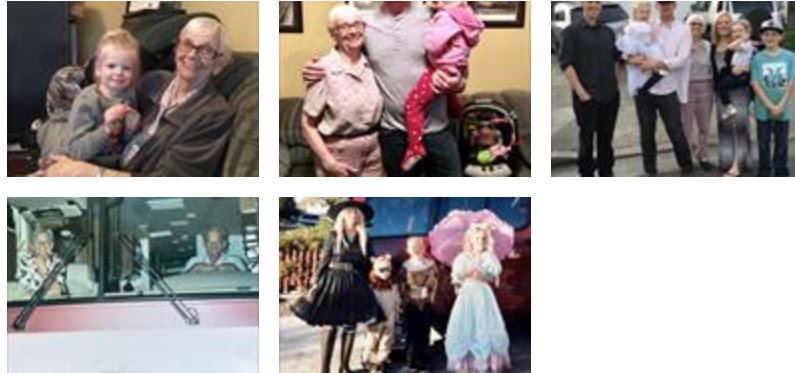
*Hi Floy, thank you for your nice response. It's been many years but I have so many great memories of the time we spent in that small school. Today it feels like it yesterday. Thanks for responding. My sister, Janice and I spent a few days together this last week so that was nice. Hopefully you are doing well. With love and good wishes to you!*

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**Mary Anne Carr** - July 17, 2022 at 04:01 PM

MT

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Lee Tobin - December 22, 2021 at 03:03 PM

RR

“ On behalf of the residents and staff at St. Joe's I extend our deepest condolences to Norma's family She was part of our family for over 2 years and she endeared herself to all of us. We all learned what her favorites were - country music, wine, and she loved to visit about living on the farm as a child. We will miss her.  
May God fill you with the peace and comfort that only you can give.  
Rita Raffety, Administrator

Rita Raffety - December 22, 2021 at 09:22 AM

MS

“ I really don't have very many memories of Norma, she was quite a bit older than me. Condolences to all of you. May God give you peace this Christmas.

Marv Braun (Esther's son) - December 21, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Stonacek Funeral Chapel** - December 21, 2021 at 02:49 PM



“ 130 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Stonacek Funeral Chapel** - December 21, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ Aunt Norma always had a smile and she looked always perfect. She had fun no matter what she did. I am so sorry for you loss. She will be missed. Love ya, Cheryl Stahlecker

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**Cheryl Stahlecker** - December 20, 2021 at 08:54 PM