

Bernice Louise Stanley Eulogy

Written by Bernice's Grandson Tim (TJ) Treen with a little help from Leann

When one is gone from this world, many things remain; Family, friends, pets, and memories, but there is hope for those left behind. Though the pain lingers and the wounds are fresh, these people are blessed, we are blessed, because we have the privilege to shout to the world who this departed soul was and still is. We are allowed to tell their gospel, to detail their walk through life and how they affected us. Remember this is an act of rejoice not mourning, so lighten up; Bernice would not like us to make her death something it is not. We'll see her again one day.

Life for Bernice was not a path through fertile valleys and gentle shores. She had her fair share of dark forests and hostile territory, but this is what made her strong enough to live life to its end. As a child she was one of five children, with two older brothers, Howard and Bud, a younger brother, Ed and a younger sister Brenda. Being stuck in the middle, like she was, presented her with curious challenges, which she solved in interesting ways. Whether it was solving Ed's pestering with the claw of the hammer to the head or after her brothers refused to share the sled she simply tried rolling down the snowy hill, only to fall off the bridge on to the train tracks below, breaking her arm in the process. If only those boys would have let her use the sled. She got things done. Let's face it; nobody makes the greatest choices when they are a kid that is why childhood makes for great stories.

Growing up came fast for Bernice. Through her middle school and high school years she was among the tallest, but she grew fast in other ways as well. She married at young age of 18 to Steve Treen and a short time later had a daughter whom they named Leann. Four years later a second daughter was born, Marchell. Despite having a husband and two young daughters, Bernice went on to receive her GED. After 13 stormy years of marriage to Steve she finally divorced him. She had been virtually raising her two daughters by herself, after the divorce she took them with her and continued to love and nourish them.

Shortly after her divorce, Bernice was introduced to Auto Crossing by her sister Brenda and brother-in-law Mike. Then all hell broke loose. She found it surprisingly fun for an unsure driver such as herself; it was not long before her confidence soared on and off the track. Confidence aside, Bernice met Steve Danton through Autocross and married him at the age of 33; along with Steve she inherited two young stepsons, David and Larry. Not long after Bernice was introduced to the world of road racing course officials, namely standing a handful of feet away from speeding high performance race cars with only a small tire barrier separating the cars from her body. Everyone here from the track knows what this is like. Bernice was so infatuated with racing that she studied

the rules and regulations to a T and she abided by them and expected everyone else to abide by them. For those of you who don't like to follow them- You know who you are. She went on to earn countless honors and awards including the national Worker of the Year award for Flagging and communications.

Aside from racing and her family, Bernice continued to pursue her schooling, eventually earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Central Washington University. With her degree she earned herself a position at Boeing where she faced governmental audits, successfully completing the audits after a single run through. But amid the successes pains still came and Bernice divorced Steve Danton at 41.

Two years later Bernice married Tim Stanley; the third time is the charm! With Tim she inherited two stepdaughters, Julie and Janice. Life continued for Bernice with the continued activity in auto racing with Tim and a deep commitment to her family. This trend continued even when she was diagnosed with breast cancer at 51. As she went through treatment, her strength showed true, as did her faith. Little could overcome her stubborn determination. Even when the cancer returned she showed humor and faith, insisting she would endure.

The conclusion to this story is the same for all people, death. What is unique and inspirational though is that she never relented, never gave in to the pain! Despite the conditions she faced, Bernice presented a cheerful face coupled with her stubborn refusal to go quietly. She knew her time had come, but she also knew that death was nothing but another stage in life. She knew her fate was in heaven, the pain, the fear; the anticipation was all worth it. And now, as we shed tears in memory, she is up in the clouds crying along with us, not because we are staying goodbye, but because we're saying see you soon and soon is not soon enough. This life is evidence that humans become Angels.