



## Joyce A. Blackmun

March 25, 1951 - June 5, 2018

Joyce Arlene Blackmun, age 67, left this earth on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, in Yreka, California.

She was born in Yreka on March 25, 1951, to Bernard and Claudia (Metcalf) York and grew up on their ranch on Willow Creek Road (later York Road), where she acquired, among other skills, the art of "down-home" farm cooking and driving (the latter serving her well when she drove school bus in Oregon for some time.) Both of the skills were a joy to her and followed her to her very last days.

Her elementary school years were spent at Willow Creek School, at that time the one-room schoolhouse where her father had also attended. She completed junior high at Jackson Street School and then graduated from Yreka High School in 1969.

That fall she enrolled at Northwest Nazarene College (now University), in Nampa, Idaho. In addition to her studies that year at NNC, she worked in the college post office and sang in one of the Christian Workers Bands that the college sent out weekly to minister to area senior residences. The love of singing and caring for the elderly continued throughout her life.

Following marriage in 1970, she moved to Oregon, where her three children

were born. She lived in Siskiyou County briefly again before moving to Tennessee. She was a hard worker, not only in the home but also for various employers--from office work for a church, a steel fabricator, a jewelry business, and a hospital to work on the health foods floor of a major grocery/department store.

In 2013 she moved back to her home area of Yreka to provide for the care of two very special friends of hers while also continuing to show hospitality and generosity from her heart by preparing meals for guests in her home as well as delivering meals to others.

She is survived by sons Sean (Tami) McDowell and Chad (Angie) McDowell and daughter Sara (James) Rice, as well as grandchildren Emma, Chloe, and "Baby" McDowell, Deacon Blackmun, and Damien Rice. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services were held at Girdner Funeral Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 11. 11:00 AM (PT)

Girdner Funeral Chapel  
202 S. Oregon St.  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-3434  
<https://www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Deacon Blackmun lit a candle in memory of Joyce A. Blackmun



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**Deacon Blackmun** - April 06, 2020 at 05:53 PM

DB

“ I am deacon Blackmun her nephew I miss her very much and cried for 3 days after her death from a heart attack.

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**deacon blackmun** - April 06, 2020 at 05:50 PM



“ Sean, Tami, Chad, it has been a sincere pleasure getting to know you, I only wish it was for different circumstances. With each persons share I have read or verbally heard, there was one consistent phrase that came up over and over. " she was SPECIAL" and oh so loved by all her knew her. I hope you can find some comfort in knowing that your mom loved her life to the fullest and was a great influence to so many. Much love to all.

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**Donnie Kiss** - June 12, 2018 at 11:11 AM

MS

“ Joyce was like a sister to me, love her very much. She was just that special person that went the extra mile to help those that needed a little extra care from time to time. Like a meal delivered after coming home from the hospital, a fresh orange birthday cake for a special friend or family member, or take a person to a drs appointment. She was a giving person and she gave Unselfishly from herself. She could sing the high notes and boy did she ever!  
We became close working together at Kroger in Murfreesboro Tn. I'd stay with her a couple nights a week as I lived an hour away. She was an outstanding cook, I loved her stir fried rice!  
Joyce, my best friend, my sister in Christ, I'll miss you and our hour long phone calls on Sunday's and visits to bonefish when you'd visit Tn. God called you home, guess he needed another voice in the choir. I'll see you on the other side..... till then...

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**Mindy Fugitt Scott** - June 11, 2018 at 01:10 PM

DC

“ I have great childhood memories of Joyce and her family. I am one of her many cousins on the York side. There was always something fun and interesting to see and do at the Bernard York ranch. Since I have used a wheelchair since childhood, I remember one day that Joyce pushed my wheelchair all around their property to make sure I was having a fun day.

I also remember her love of poetry and books which was true of her mother, Claudia too. Joyce wrote a beautiful tribute to her father, Bernard which was included in his memorial service. I hope someone will include her poetry and writing in her memorial.

Our hearts break for her family at the sudden loss of this giving person. We send our regrets that my own family cannot be present for the memorial service.

*With Our Deep Sympathy,*

*Dan and Jane York Family*

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**Daniel York, Joyce's cousin** - June 10, 2018 at 08:34 PM

BP

“ My heart broke yesterday to find out Joyce passed away. I have known her for about 4 years now. The very first time I met her we both knew we would be friends. We would talk for hours. She would show me pictures of her family. She had so much love for her sons & their wives / grandchildren. Joyce was one of the nicest ladies that I know. I will miss her, and her smile.

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**Becky Perfect** - June 09, 2018 at 06:36 PM