



Dr. Wanda Leigh Price

April 29, 1945 - February 29, 2024

Dr. Wanda Leigh Price, 78, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2024. Wanda was born on April 29, 1945, and raised in Blacksburg VA. She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred Ribble Price and Myrtle Kathleen Swaim Price, her sisters, Odessa Price Phillips and Peggy Price McKendree, and her brother Derl Dudley Price. She was also preceded in death by her brother-in-law Jack Cromer. She is survived by her sister, Freda Jean Price Cromer of Hickory NC, and many nieces and nephews.

After graduating from Blacksburg High School (class of 1963), Wanda set her sights on education and travel. She attended and graduated from Warner Pacific University (Class of 1967). She then earned her Master's degree from Radford University (Class of 1972). Wanda later attended Virginia Tech and graduated in the Class of 1985 with her Doctoral Degree.

Early in life, Wanda traveled and even lived in many areas outside of her home state of Virginia, but her love for the community and the people of her hometown would always bring her back to Blacksburg. She retired from Montgomery County Public Schools after many years of teaching and working in administration. After retirement, she taught at Radford University.

Wanda was a lifetime educator, so left to mourn her are a multitude of colleagues, friends, and students. She prided herself on her past students.

She often shared her hopes that in some small way, she had made a difference in each and every one of their lives.

Wanda loved and admired the miracles of life. She sought to see the miracles in animals, friends, crafts, and literature. Education, photography, travel, and music were major focuses in her life. She loved visiting with old friends and making new ones. She had the unique ability to see talent and abilities in people through a simple conversation. She was supportive and enjoyed encouraging people to live their dreams.

Wanda was an exceptional basket weaver. She loved making and selling crafts. She enjoyed playing the piano, singing, and even played the bells and sang in the choir at Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

Wanda enjoyed laughter and will be remembered for her unique ability to remember and share jokes. She saw beauty everywhere, from the laughter of children to the sounds of the ocean, and even in a simple wildflower. She loved the birds in her backyard, her beautiful flower gardens, playing tennis, and anything she could capture through the lens of her camera. Wanda traveled extensively including to many foreign countries, capturing memories, landscaping, and people along the way with her photography. She would want those left behind to search for the beauty of this world just like she did.

Wanda once delivered the commencement at a graduation of her students at Blacksburg High School. She read from Dr Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go. Her favorite quote from that address: "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away."

A Celebration of Life will be held on April 29, 2024 (her birthday) at 11 am at Blacksburg Christian Church, 240 Watson Ave., Blacksburg. At Wanda's request, we will have chocolate cake and yellow roses. If you can't join us that

day, please have a piece of chocolate in remembrance of Wanda. In lieu of flowers it was Wanda's request that donations be made in her name to Animal Hope Alliance or your local hospice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blacksburg Christian Church
240 Watson Ave
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

BT

“ Wanda was also a "wicked" tennis player! She had sneaky good shots down the line and always laughed with her opponents as well as her partners and friends. She was great fun, until her devastating decline in her mental health.

Another friend sharing her loss, Beth Thomas

Beth Thomas - April 27, 2024 at 03:46 PM

GH

“ Wanda was a close friend of my family. She took my wedding pictures. RIP You will be missed



Gail C Hooper - March 10, 2024 at 07:06 PM

TB

“ Prayers for peace and comfort during this time...Dr Price was at Auburn High in the 90s and she was such a nice lady

Tammy Brown - March 08, 2024 at 06:20 AM

DM

“ Wanda was a wonderful person and an amazing friend of many years. I always enjoyed visiting her at her home, and we took some day trips and an overnight trip to Natural Bridge for the Easter Celebration one year. We both loved to hike and enjoy the outdoors. She was a very proficient woodworker and her crafts were unique. She always was looking out for others and putting their needs ahead of hers. We used to exchange Christmas Cards every year as we both got older and weren't always able to connect in person. I am sorry that we had lost contact and i hadn't had a chance to visit her in the last several years. I pray she left this world peacefully. She will always be remembered fondly in the part she played making my life more fulfilling, and her acceptance of my lifestyle. She always encouraged, never judged. She is a true credit to the Human Race. Goodbye my sweet friend. Don Marlowe

Don Marlowe - March 07, 2024 at 12:06 PM

GE

Don, I was a close friend of Wanda's and took care of her in her home for the ten months before she needed the care a facility provided. Please know that she spoke of you often and always fondly. Gina Evans

Gina Evans - March 11, 2024 at 10:39 PM

BS

“ Wanda was a friend and fellow educator. She was a wonderful person and will be missed. My condolences go out to all her family.

Becky Smythers - March 06, 2024 at 05:22 PM

DC

“ Always used to call her Dr Price she was an amazing woman she has known me since I was little and she took pictures of me when I was in elementary I will never forget her rest in peace you will be missed



Deborah A Cardwell - March 06, 2024 at 12:28 PM

DS

“ Wanda was an amazing person. She was a respected educator and leader, a good friend to me, and once she was your friend, she would always be your friend. I have so many fond memories of playing tennis with Wanda and her tennis buddies, sharing stories about future travels, and always happy to see her contagious smile that brought joy and happiness to anyone near her. I cannot recall a time when Wanda was not only positive and uplifting in the time that she shared with you but, she was also an inspiration and motivator who encouraged you to reach higher and believe in yourself, even when you felt covered in doubt.

I am thankful for having the blessing of knowing such a wonderful, kind, and beautiful soul as Wanda. She will be missed as she was loved by so many. Love and sympathy to the family and close friends. She was surely an angel!

Don Simpkins

Donald J Simpkins - March 02, 2024 at 11:19 PM

TB

“ Ms Price was my homebound teacher from Bellview elementary school. She was such a joy and always cheerful. Rest in peace Ms Price I'll always hold those memories.

Tammy Bell - March 02, 2024 at 03:55 PM

DA

“ Wanda was one of my favorite folks to work with in MCPS. She helped me greatly when I first moved back here to teach. She was so encouraging. I also enjoyed our friendship .. she was so much fun and interesting. I will treasure all of the wooden ornaments that she made and I shared with so many others through the years.. each one was unique and made with love. Heaven has gained an angel... Love you dear friend
Deneise Austin-Altizer

Deneise Austin-Altizer - February 29, 2024 at 03:33 PM

MW

Wanda and I worked together at the old CMS. One of the best assistant principals I ever worked with. With Wanda it was working with, not for. Loved her and her wonderful sense of humor. She will be missed. Marcy Wertz

Marcy Wertz - March 01, 2024 at 03:37 PM

RM

So sad to hear of Wanda's passing. She was such a caring person, and really loved her students. I will always have good memories of her at BHS. I know she will be dearly missed by many. My love to her family

Robert Metz - March 01, 2024 at 11:10 PM

LH

Wanda Price was a unique, creative, happy, Christian educator and my friend, who loved life to its fullest!

Education was the name of her game and Wanda was a master at solving problems, giving speeches and teaching the fundamentals of Life to her students.

I treasure her wooden gifts she created, especially her beautiful little music box tree I was so fortunate to receive.

Through Wand's invitation, she and I flew to Paris, and Amboise, France, and had an unbelievable journey.

I share my tears, love and comfort to her sister, Fredda, as we spent many happy hours traveling together!

I miss Wanda! I'm so thankful she was a part of my life and her memories are treasures, never to be forgotten!

Lois H. Hinkle, March 4th, 2024!

4.

Lois H. Hinkle - March 04, 2024 at 06:37 PM