



Devon LeAnn Hamner

May 21, 1951 - July 4, 2016

Devon LeAnn (Schulz) Hamner, 65, of Grand Island, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, heartfelt Christian, mentor, and teacher extraordinaire, departed this life for her heavenly home on July 4, 2016 after a spirited year-long battle against cancer.

To honor Devon's wishes, cremation was chosen. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at All Faiths Funeral Home.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 8, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Caroline Price-Gibson will officiate.

Devon was born May 21, 1951 in Akron, Iowa to Earl and Sanna (Haase) Schulz. She grew up surrounded by love on the family farm near Elk Point, South Dakota, and graduated from Elk Point High School in 1969. Knowing in her heart that she was born to be a Kindergarten teacher, she attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, graduating in 1973. She earned her Master's degree from Doane College, Crete, Nebraska in 1993.

On July 14, 1973, she married Charles Hamner. The couple made their home in Grand Island, Nebraska, where Devon had "the best job in the world," teaching for 38 years at West Lawn Elementary School. She retired in 2011.

Survivors include her beloved husband of 43 years, Chuck; two sons and daughters-in-law, Nathan and Emily of Snohomish, Washington; Jonathan and Valeria of Grand Island; and one daughter, Kristin, of Piedra Blanca de Bonao, Dominican Republic; five grandchildren: Katherine and Jonah Hamner, Nicolas Toledo Hamner, Sofia and Selva Hamner de Paula.

Also left to cherish her memory are a brother and sister-in-law, Brad and Terry Schulz of Omaha; four aunts: Wilda Abraham and Mary Arlene Schulz of Elk Point, and Wilma Haase and Rose Haase of Sioux City, Iowa; as well as one uncle, Ray Schulz of Vermillion, South Dakota; one niece and two nephews; cousins galore; a wide circle of wonderful friends; and a host of erstwhile students, nearly all of whom know in their hearts that “I was Mrs. Hamner’s favorite.” She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, four aunts and five uncles.

A voracious reader herself, Devon’s greatest pleasure was introducing others—particularly her children and grandchildren—to the skills of reading and the joy of books. As a kindergarten teacher, she sent hundreds of “1,000 book kids” off to first grade, ensuring their success and love of reading throughout their school careers and beyond. She was a contracted writer for the National Council of Teachers of English “Read-Write-Think” website, crafting model lessons to be published for use by other teachers worldwide. Her last crowning achievement was reading and recording scores of her favorite kid-lit books on CDs for each grandchild to treasure.

Devon’s grandchildren will also remember her for “Nana’s projects.” She never failed to have something fun and educational to work on whenever they were together—especially baking gingerbread boys and girls who always ran away and had to be found.

Devon was an active lifelong member of the International Reading

Association's Central Nebraska chapter, the Grand Island Education Association, the Nebraska State Education Association, and the National Education Association, attending five national conventions over the years. She was an involved member of First Presbyterian Church, serving as Sunday School and Bible School teacher, Stephen Ministry leader, deacon, elder, and the first ever female President of the Corporation. Her special joy was participating in her Bible study groups.

In retirement, she drew great satisfaction from service as a volunteer and board member of the Presbyterian Preschool; in 2013 and again in 2014, she received the American Red Cross Preparedness Award for making "Whale Tales" (water safety) and "Scrubby Bear" (hand washing) presentations in dozens of area classrooms.

Socially, Devon enjoyed membership in the Grand Island Area Retired School Personnel, NSEA-R, the Platte Valley Retired Education Association, and PEO.

She enjoyed traveling, corresponding with her far-flung friends, baking, and sharing her faith with her loyal Christian friends, who heartened and sustained her through her final illness. Devon's lifelong goal was to celebrate the blessings of each day, honoring each as a gift from God.

Memorials are suggested to the Foundation of Peace or First Presbyterian Church.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church

Tribute Wall



“ *Devon LeAnn Hamner*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Sarah lit a candle in memory of Devon LeAnn Hamner*



Sarah - August 13, 2022 at 02:06 AM



“ *With heartfelt sympathy, Denise Tasick*

Denise Tasick - July 16, 2016 at 12:02 AM



“ *Dear Chuck, Jeannie and I just want you to know you and your family are deep in our hearts and prayers. We can only imagine your grief and loneliness. The gift of Devon's life and personality will live on in the lives of the many children she touched and taught. We share your grief, but also wonderful memories. Dave & Jean Harris*

David and Jean Harris - July 11, 2016 at 04:52 PM

CM

“ *The Hamner Family,
Our entire family is saddened by the passing of your wonderful wife and mother. There are no words . . . just know that our thoughts and prayers are and will continue to be with you. We hope that you find comfort in knowing how many lives were touched by this beautiful and special person.*

The Manleys - Mike, Cindy, Kyle, Katie, and Jenna

Cindy Manley - July 10, 2016 at 09:00 AM

RM

“ *Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time. Mark and I have a prior commitment for Saturday but you will remain in our thoughts now and in the future.*

*Love,
Rhonda and Mark McCabe & family*

Rhonda McCabe - July 08, 2016 at 02:16 PM



“ *Devon was my high school best friend and I am so fortunate that we reconnected by correspondence many years ago and got to know one another over again. In this past year while Devon had her own big health problems AND her own spirited way of focusing on many things important to her other than medical treatments, she provided generous support to me while I am going through my daughter's serious medical problem with her. Devon's unselfish spirit is going to be missed by so many. I am sad--but so fortunate to have been her friend. Twice!*

*Rita Connolly
San Francisco*

Rita Connolly - July 08, 2016 at 02:11 PM

SF

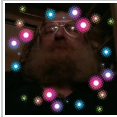
“ Devon and I were in the same 4-H club as kids. We had so much fun sewing clothes for the county fair and practicing demonstrations on how to cook. Our club meetings were often at her home with Devon making treats.

Devon went to "town school" in the elementary grades while I was still attending a rural school. Before my rural school closed I decided to visit the "town school". I was apprehensive but Devon took the leadership role-- showed me around and made me feel comfortable. It seems like that happened yesterday.

My sympathy to all of Devon's family.

Sandra Miller Hall

Sandra Miller Hall, childhood friend - July 07, 2016 at 09:36 PM



See Chuck you was a lucky guy marrying Devon because you have done the impossible you actually was able to marry your own sunshine the sunshine of the family she came from brought it to you and your family and friends and colleagues and her though of everything that you have is left with having been able to get the chance of a lifetime you definitely had captured the sun (Devon) and made her your wife and kids and other things that are in the memory of the family are well and kept good luck Chuck my you find a good way still should be easy you married the best teacher you have ever had and hope you've learned enough to be strong enough to carry on . your friend David Foss

Davenport Forward - September 28, 2017 at 01:08 PM

AG

“ Dear Chuck and family,
The soul in sorrow is as dear to God as the soul he has taken home. May His love bring peace and comfort in the days ahead. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Beth Dondlinger Clare

alice gray - July 07, 2016 at 09:29 PM

AM

“ *Mr. Hamner I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mrs. Hammer as a teacher at West Lawn and it was always a pleasure to see her at church when I come back to GI for a visit. My prayers and condolences to you and your family.*

amy (peterson) miller - July 06, 2016 at 11:36 PM

KC

“ *I was a student of Mrs Hamner in 1995 and she was one of my favorite teachers going through school. I'll miss her! My condolences to her family she was an amazing woman!*

Kristina Courtney - July 06, 2016 at 06:47 PM

ML

“ *She was my second grade teacher, and one of my favorites. I use to play school at home with my chalkboard and I was always Mrs. Hamner. She was tall and thin and usually wore her hair up had a special way that she stood and I use to pretend I was her every time I played school. Rest in peace beautiful lady.*

michele larson - July 06, 2016 at 04:27 PM

CW

“ *Thoughts & prayers to the entire extended Hamner Family during this very difficult time. As a former West Lawn Mustang student and childhood friend of Nathan, I know that both his parents are very kind, decent, and caring people. Peace be with you all. Take care.*

Chih-Wei Wu

Chih-Wei Wu - July 06, 2016 at 03:54 PM

KM

“ Chuck and family, My heart is hurting for you. It was wonderful to get to know Devon through our many years of teaching Kdg in GIPS. We also got our masters together. Seems like yesterday. I loved her smile and laugh. She truly lived out her faith every time I saw her. I know how much she will be missed in your lives and in those precious grandbabies lives, as I saw her love for them in many pictures. I'm so sorry I will be out of town for the visitation and funeral. My heartfelt prayers for God's loving arms to hold you and comfort you. " Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, " says the Lord, who has compassion on you. --- Isaiah 54:10 Kriste Molacek

Kriste Molacek - July 06, 2016 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Devon LeAnn Hamner.



July 06, 2016 at 09:30 AM

TL

“ I worked with Devon for many years and tried to fill her shoes when she retired. Her children and mine were friends and involved together at school. My tribute to Devon is to share how she helped our family. There were a couple years where I was battling depression and had to leave immediately for help. Devon was there talking to my daughter and making sure she had grocery money to keep her and her brothers going in the turmoil. She cared for my children, the most important thing in my life. After the second time, I went to a great hospital to really work on healing, and came home with bills and as a single parent.. she, I know it was anonymous but Devon worked with friends and they donated money to pay my hospital bill. She was always there day to day but she didn't turn away like so many others at these times in our life. She stepped up and was there for my kids and myself. She lived her faith, that is what I learned from Devon.

Tammy Larson, Tara, Brady, Colby

Tammy Larson - July 06, 2016 at 09:28 AM

DA

“ So sorry for your loss.

Dave - July 06, 2016 at 08:46 AM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of Devon's family & friends. The warmth in Devon's heart showed on her face at any encounter. She will be missed not only by all her family & friends, but by all who were touched by her during her life. 🙏🙏. Craig & Sue (Kosmicki) Foss

Craig & Sue (Kosmicki) Foss - July 06, 2016 at 08:10 AM