



Sharon Anne Watson

March 21, 1943 - December 13, 2025

Sharon Anne Watson, 82, of Washington, IL, passed away on December 13, 2025 surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 21, 1943, in San Diego, CA, to Dan and Genevieve (Lindsay) Brown. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Kay Shaw.

Surviving are her two daughters; Lorena Cary of Washington, IL, and Melanie (Derek Clark) Cary of La Crosse, WI; and three grandchildren, Ashley Cary of McKinney, TX, Max Clark of Madison, WI, and Lindsay Clark of Washington, IL.

Sharon grew up in Herrin, IL, spending many summers with her grandparents helping in the family store. From a young age and throughout her life, Sharon was committed to facilitating the success of children with disabilities. She received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Illinois State University, and was a dedicated multi-categorical special education teacher in the Peoria area for many years. Throughout her career, she taught children with a variety of physical and mental disabilities, often teaching children with orthopedic handicaps. Sharon was a pioneer in developing and promoting inclusive special education in the Peoria area. She was a lifelong staunch advocate with great determination. In the 1970s, Sharon created an active girl

scout troop for girls with various orthopedic handicaps. She was prompted to do so because someone said it couldn't be done. She took her troop on day trips and for multi-day camping. After retiring from full-time teaching, Sharon continued to contribute to education as a Special Education Consultant.

Sharon was a devoted mother and grandmother. She was a kind person who made friends just about everywhere she went. She loved spending time with family and friends, and particularly enjoyed playing cards and chatting. During the many years she sewed, Sharon made the three bridesmaids' dresses for Melanie's wedding. She also enjoyed a wide variety of music, including classical, rockabilly, pop, and hard rock. Combining her love for family and music, Sharon especially liked going to concerts with her daughters and granddaughters. She was looking forward to attending an upcoming rock concert with Lorena and their friend. Throughout her life Sharon enjoyed having pet cats and dogs. She was an avid reader and a member of the Cozy Mystery Book Club at the Sunnyland Branch of the Washington District Library. Sharon lived life to the fullest and will be sorely missed by family, friends, and many former students and coworkers.

Cremation will be accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be made to Washington District Library (<https://washingtondl.org/about-us/donations-and-volunteering/>) or to TAPS (<https://tapsshelter.org/donate/>) No-Kill Animal Shelter Words of comfort can be shared with the family at www.SchmidtHaller.com.