

Wanda Louise Russell

Year: 1975-1976

Date of birth: June 22, 1924

Place of birth: Grandview, Washington

Joined Unit No.: 66

Where: Edmonds, Washington

Date: 1944

Unit Offices Held: Vice-President, Unit President

Unit Chairmanships: Americanism, Girls State 35 yrs, Historian, Chaplain

District President: 2nd Yr: 1968

Department Chairmanships (before): 50th Anniversary Chairman for Department Celebration, Publicity Chairman, Americanism, Children and Youth Chairman, Rehabilitation Chairman

Department Chairmanships (after): Organization and Policy Advisory Chairman 3yrs, Member of committee 6 yrs

National Appointments: Legislative Committee

Community Activities: Fourth of July Celebration Organizing Committee, most of her married life

Family: Married? Yes, for 35 yrs Spouse: Aiden (Russ) Russell – Past Department Commander and NEC

Children: Patricia Campbell, Kay Brader, Jerald Russell, Rina Varon, and Erin Penn

Grandchildren : Heather Atterberry, Tamara Brader, Yishai Mizrahi-Varon, Megan Russell, Christopher Russell, and Emily Russell

Great-Grandchildren: Aiden Atterberry and another child to be born to Heather Atterberry

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Aiden (Russ) Russell and her daughter, Erin Penn.

Occupation: Businesswoman

Hobbies: The American Legion and Auxiliary, traveling, spending time with her grandchildren

Remarks—anything unusual in your life: Received the General MacArthur Award, May 1979, Honorary Conductor the Seattle Symphony in Freeway Park on Sept. 16, 1978

Travels: Anyplace that National Conventions were held, attended 13 of them. Traveled in later years to Hawaii, Great Britain, Israel, Greece, Mexico. Loves to travel to new places, especially on cruises.

What outstanding event or accomplishment occurred during your year as Department President?

Held National Convention in Seattle

Miscellaneous: Travel, cruising, enjoyed spending time with friends and family

Wanda and Aiden (Russ) Russell spent most of their married life as a part of the American Legion and Auxiliary. It was their life beyond their family. They passed their patriotism and love of country on to their children and grandchildren. Jerald, their son, attended Boys State while their daughter Erin attended Girls State. Further, one granddaughter attended Girls State, two granddaughters were honored with Legion and Auxiliary Department scholarships and recently, one granddaughter represented the family with distinction as a summer intern at George Washington's Estate at Mount Vernon. To say they left a legacy is truly and understatement – they have taught the next generations in their family love of country and the importance of giving back to the world. Each of her children and grandchildren has sought out their own path to be patriotic, contributing citizens but each relies on Wanda's strength, passion and determination.

Rosary will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3 pm at Beck's Funeral Home, 405 Fifth Avenue S in Edmonds. A Graveside service will take place on Monday, Feb. 14. at 11 a.m. at Holyrood Cemetery, 205 NE 205th Street in Shoreline; with a reception following at the Legion Hall in Edmonds.