



# Ilse E. Walters

APR 9, 1928 - NOV 11, 2016



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 4
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 7



## **Ilse E. Walters**

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### **I**lse Erika Assmus Walters April 9, 1928 – November 11, 2016

Beloved Omi and Mom, Ilse Walters, passed away on November 11, 2016 of pancreatic cancer. Ilse was born In Stettin, Germany to Alma and Erich Assmus. A refugee at the end of World War II, she lived first in England where she met her husband, Robert Walters, and then as an Air Force wife, lived in Clovis, New Mexico; Wiesbaden, Germany; and then finally Tacoma, Washington. Robert and Ilse were married 31 years and had three children - Erika, Heidi, and Ted. After Ilse retired from AAFES, she volunteered for the American Red Cross at Madigan Army Hospital, for which she received a Lifetime Achievement Award, and at the Retired Activities Office at McChord AFB.

Although a naturalized citizen, Ilse was unfailingly patriotic and loved her adopted country, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, her home and garden, swimming, and the Mariners. In her later years, she began swimming competitively at the State and National Senior Games, winning her first national medals for the breaststroke at 83, and a gold medal for the 200 yards breaststroke in 2015 at age 87.

Omi is survived by her daughters, Erika (Howard) Bowles, Heidi (Joseph) Myhre, grandchildren Jay Bowles, Chrissy (Zach) Berch, Pierce Myhre, Elise Myhre, McKenna (Dustin) Bamford, Aubrey Walters, and Amanda Walters, step son-in-law Mike Jackson, step grand-children Mike (Erin) Jackson and Mark (Ikuyo) Jackson, great-grandchildren Eli Berch and Aven Bamford and step great-grandchildren Cade, Colt, Clint, Kai , and Maya Jackson. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert, son Ted, and stepdaughter Joyce (Mike) Jackson.

A Celebration of Ilse's life will be held 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2017 in the Celebration of Life Center, Aspen Chapel with a reception to follow at Mountain View Funeral Home and Memorial Park.

Please share your memories of Ilse and condolences to the family by visiting the tribute wall.




# Events


**Ilse E. Walters**

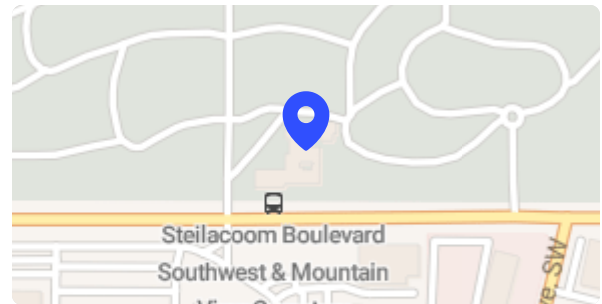
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## Reception


 **Friday**, January 20, 2017


 2:00 PM PT


 **Oak Room**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood WA 98499

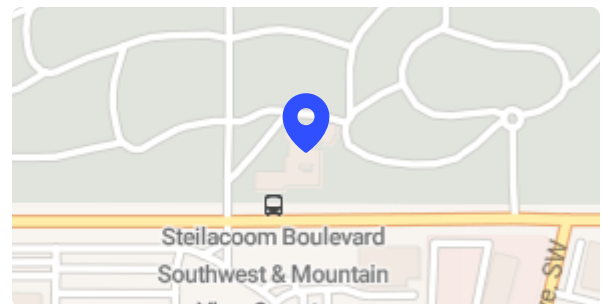


## Celebration of Life


 **Friday**, January 20, 2017


 1:00 PM PT

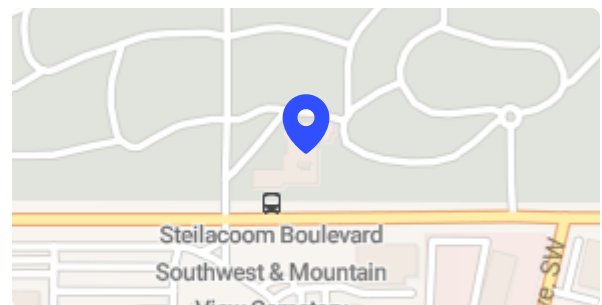
 **Aspen Chapel at Mountain View Memorial Park**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood WA 98499



## Cemetery Details

 **Mountain View Memorial Park**  
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood WA 98499

 **(253) 948-9895**





## Tribute Wall

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GS

**Garren Shannon** posted:

Ilse will always be Mrs. Walters to me. I grew up with Ted as they just lived down the street from me. I spent many long hours enjoying the warm hospitality of the Walters. She was always a strong presence and held herself as a force of nature. During high school, I worked for her as a stock boy at the base exchange where I got my first taste of real work. The years after high school, I would bump into her on base or see her at a family gathering and I was always greeted with a sincere smile and questions about how I am doing. I am saddened of her passing and even more that I can't attend her memorial. She was a wonderful lady and meant a lot to me through my formative years. She will be missed.

January 19 at 2:22 PM



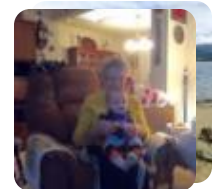
**Anonymous** sent a Shades of Purple to the Walters family.



January 19 at 11:50 AM

MF

**Meg Ferris** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



January 19 at 10:58 AM

SS

**Susan Smith** posted:

I remember meeting Ilse at the senior games in Palo Alto. She was such a delight! At night she would come into our room, lay on the bed with us and share her tales of her younger years. What a fantastic woman. She had the heart of a lion. She was so proud of her family. I remember watching her race her first race of the games. She left nothing behind. What determination and grit. My life has been enhanced by knowing this wonderful woman. I feel privileged to have met her and her family. She will be missed.

January 10 at 9:35 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Tamara Steil** posted:

Ilse was a very special lady who we all felt very honored to know. She wowed my husband Dave, my friend Sue, and I with her athletic drive and accomplishments, her zest for life and the people she graced with her presence, and her wonderful stories of the history she lived when she biked out of Germany near WWII. I will always remember her toughness and her laughter. Know that she touched people everywhere she went. Her story-telling was fascinating. I have enjoyed her wonderful emails over the years since we met in 2009 at Senior Olympic Nationals and will never forget her inspiring feats and especially her smile and charm. It is comforting and even more inspiring to know she swam to the end and then coasted to the wall the last 3 months. She was a born breaststroker, like me, and I can only hope to follow in her smooth, strong, peaceful wake.

January 10 at 9:15 AM



**Joan Campion** posted:

Ilse's passing was a shock as she seemed indestructible. So strong of body, mind and will. I will miss her for a long time. No more sharing thoughts on sports, politics and plants and gardens. We were both Mariner fans, she really devoted. Since I went to bed earlier than she did I would never see the last few innings. Ilse would stay up until the sometimes bitter end and leave me an email for first thing in the morning with the final score along with some comments. Usually starting with "if I was the manager or I should be the manager. but they didn't ask me". She was quite a woman. Peace Ilse and enjoy our Heavenly garden. Love, Joan Campion

January 6 at 6:19 AM



## Media

**Ilse E. Walters**

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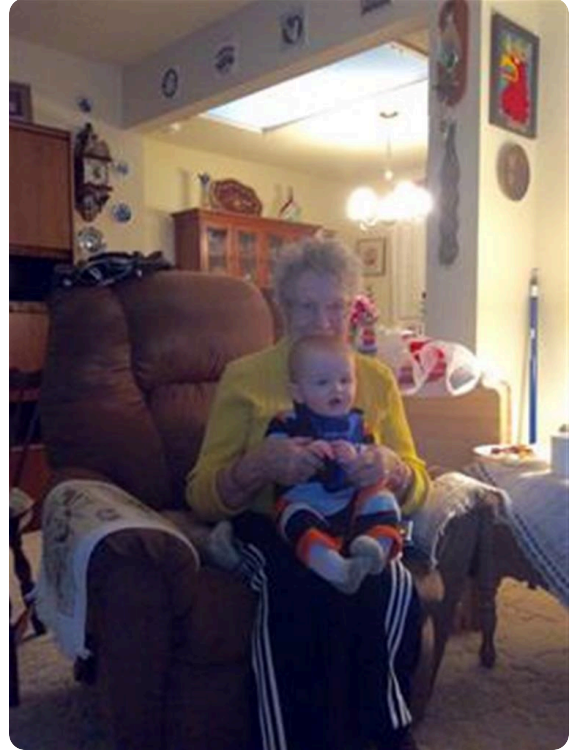


Meg Ferris shared 2 photos to the **New Album Name** album.

January 19 at 10:58 AM



Ilse, Ted, and granddaughters



Ilse and greatgrandson, Aven Bamford



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ilse by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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