

Sharon "Sheri" L. Stears (1957 - 2002)



Sharon "Sheri" Lynn Stears was born May 21, 1957, in Butte to Charles and Virginia (Aleksich) Stears. She attended St. Patrick's grade school, West Junior High School and Butte Public High School. She was a majorette of the Butte High Purple B'z and was the 1974 Butte Junior Miss.

Sheri Stears was principal of Clark Middle School for three years and was a dedicated employee with the Anchorage School District for over twenty years. She was the Alaska 2002 Middle School Principal of the Year and was named on of the top three finalists for the National 2002 Middle School Principal of the Year. In three short years, Ms. Stears took a troubled school and created a positive educational environment.

Prior to Clark Middle School, Ms. Stears was an assistant principal at Bartlett High School and a teacher at Service High School for fourteen years. She also coached gymnastics at Service High School, where she took one of the worst teams in the city and developed them into one of the best teams in the nation. Under her guidance, Service won eight consecutive State & Region Championships and developed the longest winning streak in the nation.

Ms. Stears' academic accomplishments included student teaching in Scotland, receiving a Bachelor of Arts with Honors from Montana State University and a master's degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She was also involved in numerous after-school activities and community service throughout her life.

Sheri's philosophy on life was best summarized by herself, "if better is even possible, then good is not enough." Despite her numerous accomplishments, Sheri never took credit for them herself. When Sheri won the Middle School Principal of the Year award, she used the award money to establish an annual outstanding employee award at her school, rather than keep it for herself. Even before she passed away, she helped establish this annual scholarship fund for the continuing education of students.

Ms. Stears died December 18, 2002, after a courageous battle with cancer at her home in Anchorage, Alaska, with her family and friends by her side.