



## Sharon Ann Hinkle

September 27, 1938 - September 25, 2025

Sharon Ann (Preston) Hinkle

9/27/1938 - 8/24/2025

Sharon Ann Preston Hinkle passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, August 24, 2025. She was born on September 27, 1938, to Harlan and Elaine Rhode, the third of four children, and was raised on a farm near Rosalie, Nebraska. Her childhood was shaped by the rhythms of rural life—daily chores, 4-H projects, and riding to school by horse and wagon. These modest beginnings, supported by a loving family, laid the foundation for a life lived with purpose, passion, and perseverance.

After graduating from Rosalie High School in 1956, in a class of just twelve students, Sharon attended Wayne State College and the University of Nebraska. She earned her teaching credential and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education in 1962. She began her teaching career at Central High School in Omaha, where she taught for two years before setting off for new adventures in California. Driving her Ford Falcon west, she continued teaching in San Bernardino and then in Orange County.

Sharon's path took a new turn when she was recruited by IBM. She left the classroom to become a marketing support representative in Point Loma, working with what was then cutting-edge technology—electric typewriters and carbon paper. While IBM expanded her horizons, Sharon's true calling

remained education. In 1975, she returned to the classroom as a Business Teacher in the San Diego Unified School District, joining the staff at Crawford High School.

At Crawford, Sharon wore many hats: classroom teacher, coordinator of the business magnet program, mentor for the Future Business Leaders of America chapter, and advisor for the student store. Her leadership and dedication helped the school earn recognition as a California School of Excellence. She also earned her Master's degree from San Diego State University, completing an additional 90 hours of post-graduate coursework.

In 1992, Sharon was selected to join the founding staff of the new Scripps Ranch High School. There, she served as Department Chair, classroom teacher, resource teacher, and a member of the principal's administrative council. She wrote grants, created curriculum, and developed programs that promoted business education helping the school achieve high honors and accreditations.

On April 10, 1982, Sharon married John Hinkle. Together, they shared a love of gardening—especially roses—entertaining, traveling, reading, and football. They were devoted fans of the Nebraska Cornhuskers and made it a tradition to watch the Army vs. Navy game each year.

After retiring, Sharon remained active in her community and professional organizations. She was involved with the California Business Education Association, Theta Alpha Delta, and the University of Nebraska Alumni Association. While her interests were diverse, her priorities always centered on her family and friends.

Sharon is survived by her husband, John Hinkle; her siblings, Randall (Zelta) Preston, Deanna Bargmann; ten nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces

and great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Miramar National Cemetery on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the University of Nebraska Foundation to support the College of Education.

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 3. 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM (pst)

Miramar National Cemetery  
5795 Nobel Drive  
San Diego, CA 92122

# Tribute Wall

PL

“ I just received the memorial letter from Sharon's family. I met Sharon, or as I called her, Ms Preston at the time, when I was a student at San Diego State. Probably 1978. I was assigned as her Teacher Aide at Crawford. She was such a wonderful person to work with for 2 years until I graduated. We had a friendship outside of work also. I remember when she met John. It seems like yesterday. We kept in touch throughout the years. We would meet up every January when they made their trip to Quartzsite and Yuma, Arizona. I remember meeting her brother and wife at some point. We live in Alaska and one year John and Sharon came for a visit. Sharon was always such an uplifting person. Always interested in what others were doing. So proud of her family and telling us how they all were. It was hard to keep track but I remember the names. Her annual Christmas bags were always such a treat. So creative with the decorations and all the goodies inside. Telling me the other goodies she put in the younger kids bags. AND how many of them she made and assembled. What a job of love. We felt privileged to be included. Such a blessing.

Larry and I have missed John and Sharon since they stopped their travels. Much love to John and to Sharon's family.

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**Peggy Leonard** - March 02 at 08:31 PM

RD

“ I had the pleasure of working with Sharon's husband ( Big John) in the mid 90's. Through John I got to know Sharon. A very loving and caring soul. They made the most beautiful couple. I always looked forward to receiving their yearly Christmas letter. My condolences to John, family, and friends. RIP Sharon! A kind and caring person who touched the hearts of all that knew her.  
God bless ,  
Love, Rick Diaz

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**Rick Diaz** - January 07 at 11:25 PM

PR

“ John and I first met at the beginning of December, 1984 when we were both serving as division directors at NAS North Island HQ of the Navy's Operational Test and Force and USNA graduates. Sharon and I met soon thereafter. I dearly recall the many annual Army-Navy game parties that she hosted at their beautiful home, as well as their lovely garden and John's world class chili! At one time, Sharon was also involved with the Scripps Ranch Friends of the Library. She helped me to rescue a donated, signed edition of Ronald Regan's biography.  
My wife Christa and I sincerely thank Pam Strain and all the other extended family members who contributed to the very stirring remembrance letter!  
Pete Rieth, CDR USN (Ret)

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**Pete Rieth** - January 05 at 05:41 PM

LC

“ I first met Sharon in the late 1980's when she was interested in selling a condo located in the Point Loma area of San Diego. She called me, as I had sold many properties in the area, and we met at the property. We discussed what should be done prior to putting the property on the market. I realized then that she was polite, personable, and had a caring disposition. We immediately became friends. She trusted in me to make the right discisions on her behalf, and I think that she knew, I could never let a beautiful lady like her down. We stayed in touch from there on in. I miss her and look forward to seeing you in Heaven.

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**Lee Caudill** - December 01, 2025 at 12:44 PM