



Tribute to Blanche Campbell

*"No one has ever become poor by giving".... Anne Frank
Blanche was one of the richest people I have ever known <3
-Laurie Fringer & Family*

*My Leader, My Friend and My Second Mom.
We were not always on the same page, but we were reading from the same book!
-Gary Sumpter*

*To our family, Blanche was a very passionate selfless realistic person. She is missed immensely. Blanche defined dedication. Her devotion to 4-H is unmeasurable.
-The Garlick Family*

*"Because Blanche said!"
-Debbie Sumpter*

*While I only had the opportunity to know Blanche over the last few years, one thing was always clear: if there was a 4-H event running smoothly in Madera County, you could guarantee Blanche was in the livestock office calling the shots and keeping everyone and everything in order. She seemed to perfectly balance authority and kindness, which is rare and will be sorely missed.
-Tiffany Greer, Spring Valley 4-H*

*"Falynn..Do it right or don't do it at all!"
Meaning weekends spent in the fair office doing endless record books because we waited until the last minute every year.
-Courtney Johnson*

Blanche was always kind to kids and adults, willing to help them with any questions they may have, until fair time. At the fair anyone who knew her well either avoided her or made it brief because she became a whole different person during the fair. She never wanted any attention for herself and didn't seem too happy if her birthday fell during the fair because we all wanted to recognize her and she didn't like the attention. She will be missed, and the fair will not be the same without her.

-Pat Strimling

When I first read your email, the first thing that came to mind was hearing Blanche say "I think we can make that happen" or something along to that. I remember talking to her after the dairy show in 2019 and how our club wanted to have the same awards as other dairy shows. She was on board with our support!

-Terianne Silveira

Blanche represented the heart and soul of the Madera County 4-H program. She was always there to do the work to make the best better.

-Joanne Ylarregui

*Blanche Campbell was "**The Mother of 4-H**" in Madera County. She loved and nurtured so many youth in her 50 years of being a Community Club Leader. She was always available to help, answer questions and teach! She didn't take no for an answer but instead found a way to make it positive so the child would want to do the task at hand, whether it be hold and office, work in a County Fair as a helper or help mentor other 4H members. 4H was her life. Its what drove her.*

***Blanche was the best of the best** and has left some mighty big shoes to fill. Her life will forever be remembered by 4H members of Madera County and even many FFA members. She helped anyone who needed it! She will forever be missed!*

-Stacy Rogers Family

I have known Blanche and her family all my life. Her father, uncle, and my dad would always go hunting together every year. She was always willing to help 4-H & FFA members with livestock no matter which organization they were from. She loved helping the ag youth of Madera County.

-Jerry Waag, Retired 4-H Leader & Madera Fair Livestock Superintendent

THE DASH

the poem by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

-Michelle McBride, Ashley & Justin Borba

Blanche was an amazing person. I was lucky to know her ever since I was a little kid starting in 4H as she ran the fairs and eventually to working with her there too. Knowing that I could go into the livestock office anytime and chill on the couch and talk about whatever was one of the best parts of the fair. She cared about each and every exhibitor and the future of agriculture. She was a constant and probably a big part of making the fair something that I love and a place that feels like a big, outdoor, animal filled home. I truly can't imagine what it is going to feel like without her and I am sad she won't get to see my little one grow up in the barns.

-Anne Katuin Deniz

Blanche was one of the most special people we knew in local livestock. She dedicated her life to the 4-H and FFA youth of Madera County. Her tireless commitment as livestock superintendent at Madera Fairgrounds always made fair time pleasant and successful.

Our own children, Frank Jr., Matt and Kasey all had lots of help and encouragement from Blanche during their years of exhibiting cattle and sheep at Madera Fair.

The last couple of years our oldest granddaughter, Taylor, also had the pleasure of experiencing Blanches help and kindness. She was a blessing to all of us. We will miss her smile and her vast knowledge. We will miss her tireless energy for a 4-H program she loved so much.

We are grateful we had the opportunity to know Blanche.

-The Bigelow Family

Blanche was the epitome of 4-H. She was my go-to person at Madera Fair. Blanche was kind, she was fair, and she was knowledgeable. I have spent over a decade at the Madera fairgrounds each year for fair week. I stay the week in my RV on the grounds and I know that each year she was always the last to leave; countless hours of compiling exhibitor information for show day, getting awards ready, and making lists for auction day. Behind the scenes, I am sure things ran smoothly because of her. She dedicated so much of herself to 4-H, even with no children of her own in the program. She was always the level headed person in any debate and never had a bad thing to say of anyone. I am a better 4-H leader because of Blanche. I enjoyed her company at our monthly Leaders Council debriefing dinners. Blanche contributed to Madera 4-H and Madera Fair in more ways than any one person can know. I miss her very much, as a mentor and as a friend.

-Karl Hussey, Coarsegold 4-H

I think my Favorite Blanchism was “don’t complain, volunteer, and make it better”...something like that..

Seems to me she was always smiling, even when she was telling someone “how it was going to be”, and was actually telling them off, “nicely”

My favorite “Quote” was the night she told me “Stacy, you’re shrinking” in reference to how tall the girls, standing next to me, had gotten. (I think of that every dang time I get a hug from the “Tower” that is Jordan) 😊

But my FAVORITE thing was always getting the NICEST, hand written THANK YOU note in the mail from her, she always made it feel as if I had done SO MUCH, when it was just a small something to me at the time...and they ALWAYS came without fail!

We ALL need to take that lesson from her. I have good intentions, but fail to act on them in a timely manner. 😊

-Stacy Miles

To say that Blanche was a phenomenal woman is an understatement! Blanche was the true definition of "paying it forward"! Her hand-written notes to all her kids in their record books were specific and unique. She knew in detail about each child's project. This wasn't because she had to know everything, it's because she WANTED to know about the project and because she truly cared about the kids and their future. I will forever be in debt to Blanche for the time and knowledge she gave my family and myself. To say she is missed is truly an understatement.

-Sarah Machado & Family

As a kid I grew up in 4-H and remembered Blanche's willingness to help every member regardless of what club you were from. Her vast knowledge and great leadership skills helped shape many of us 4-Hers into who we are today. For her wisdom and kindness, I will always be grateful and will miss her dearly.

-Betsy Cardoza Family