

Melvin "Mel" Shields

1945 - 2018 Obituary



Melvin "Mel" Shields

Reno - Longtime local High School educator and entertainment writer Melvin "Mel" Shields passed away peacefully on September 21, 2018.

Mel was born in Miles City, Montana on July 20, 1945. He graduated from Custer County High School in 1963. He was awarded a full ride scholarship to the University of Chicago, where he attended through the next five years, earning his masters in English Literature in 1968.

Mel taught for two years in the Chicago area before deciding to re-locate to Reno. He taught at Reno High School and McQueen High School for the rest of his educational career. Following a 33-year teaching career at the two schools, he retired in 2002. Mel enjoyed the interaction with his students as he challenged them to always reach within themselves to reach their goals.

Mel's love for the entertainment world would lead him to the role of a well known critic. He wrote for Variety, Daily Variety and the Sacramento Bee. He conducted hundreds of interviews and viewed countless shows, meeting most of the major Hollywood celebrities in the film, stage and music world.

Mel belonged to the Nevada Retired Educators Association, The Westerner's, and had been a lifelong supporter of the National Educators Association. He especially enjoyed his Wednesday Breakfast Group at the Gold N' Silver.

Mel is survived by his brother Lonnie (Anna Mae) Shields of Reno; niece Donna (Scott) Sweeney of Haymarket, Virginia; nephew Scott (Karen) Shields and grandnephew and niece Stephen and Kimberlynn Shields of Reno, as well as several cousins.

Special thanks to his cousin Robert (Alexandra) Payton of Reno who has been a great help during this difficult time.

We wish to thank the wonderful people of Renown Hospice and the nurses and doctors who cared for him.

At Mel's request, there will be no services. Donations in his memory can be made to the Reno High School and McQueen High School Scholarship programs or to a charity of your choice.