



Obituary- Lezley Zwaal, QOVC Founder

Lezley (Lez) Zwaal passed away at the Edmonton Grey Nuns Hospital on November 21, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Her memory lives on in the hearts of Lee, her husband of 53 years, her sons Aaron (Stephanie) and Alec (Mimi) and grand-daughter Kiki. She was predeceased by her parents Milow and Janie Worel, and her brother Ralph Worel.

Lez was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. She married her high school sweetheart there and convoked from the University of Regina in 1974. After moving to Edmonton, Lez participated in several volunteer programs, including Neighbourhood Watch, Parent Parking Patrol, the La Perle Community League, and most significantly, Quilts of Valour Canada (QOVC).

Lez started QOVC after seeing an injured veteran being interviewed on the local television news. He had a non-descript blanket over his injured legs. She decided that was just not good enough and arranged to provide him with a quilt. One thing led to another, she created QOVC, organized local quilt making efforts and grew the charitable organization into a nation-wide entity that has now made and delivered over 27,000 quilts across Canada. For her efforts, she was presented by the Government of Canada with the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal.

Lee was a prairie girl at heart. She and her husband criss-crossed the prairies and Western Canada for over 50 years, taking in the nature and beauty of our great country. One spot quickly became her favourite – the Cypress Hills. She climbed onto Bald Butte, commonly referred to as Old Baldy, many times. She so enjoyed the view of the prairie from that vantage point. That is where her ashes will be spread so that she can enjoy that view forever.

Per her wishes, there will be no funeral service and flowers are gratefully declined. In lieu, please consider a donation to Quilts of Valour Canada (www.quiltsofvalour.ca).

