



Caron Reed

September 2, 1930 - April 21, 2009

Caron Ann Harley Reed died peacefully on April 21 at home from complications of Lewy Body dementia, a form Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. She was 78 years old.

Caron was born Sept. 2, 1930, in Bruneau, Idaho, to Joseph and Hermina Caron Harley. The fifth of seven children, Caron and her family moved to Nampa, Idaho, in 1944. She attended Nampa High School and was the student body secretary in 1947-48. The student newspaper, the Nampa Growl, remarked that "a true symbol of her cheerfulness is the laugh that accompanies Caron" throughout the school. Her romance with fellow student Don Reed was reported by the school newspaper to have begun on Oct. 20, 1946 — and lasted more than 63 years.

They married in 1949 and lived in Nampa until 1953, when they moved to Corvallis for Don's graduate studies. Caron was an eager and committed partner to Don as he pursued his education and career in biochemistry. The family moved to El Cerrito, Calif., and then to Bozeman, Mont., until 1962, when they returned to Corvallis, where Caron and Don lovingly raised six children. Corvallis was home for the remainder of her life, apart from numerous travels and extended sojourns abroad, including Washington, D.C., Stockholm, Sweden and London, England. Caron traveled extensively with Don on numerous trips, visiting Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, India, throughout Europe, Chile and Mexico. Africa and Antarctica were the only continents she did not visit.

Caron's passion for children included work as a teacher's aide for the Corvallis School District for 17 years at Inavale, Hoover, Wilson and Lincoln elementary schools. Active in numerous civic and social groups, she was chair of the Newcomer's Club and president of the Folk Club at Oregon State University. She volunteered at the University Thrift Shop and delivered Meals on Wheels. She was an enthusiastic and focused bridge player, playing in three bridge groups.

Her greatest joy was her family and she taught well the importance of love and strength of our bonds for one another. Caron was a devoted mother and gathered the family for evening meals with her distinctive whistle.

Two sisters, Erma Rae Kane and Jonee Grat; her husband, Don; and their children Kathy, David, Diana, Cheryl and Doug; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren survive her. Her oldest son, Rick, died in 1978, survived by his wife, Miriam, and daughter Melissa.

Caron's faith was a core foundation of her life. She was a devoted and active parishioner at St. Mary's Church. A funeral mass service in her honor will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 501 N.W. 25th St. in Corvallis. The family is grateful for the loving care provided by her husband, Don, Home Care and Elder Service providers and the Grace Center. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Grace Center for Adult Day Services, 980 N.W. Spruce Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330.

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord; And let Light Perpetual shine upon her.*

Your neighbors Jim Eblin & Jane Herbst

James Eblin - May 25, 2009 at 04:35 PM

PS

“ *Don, and all your family...Time just goes so fast. We had heard of Caron's illness at the reunion last year. It is hard for us to realize how many years have gone by since high school. If you get over this way in the future I hope that you will let us all know. Pati and Ray Sweet*

Pati Conway Sweet - May 04, 2009 at 06:54 PM

BB

“ *We will miss her gracious hospitality and warm support.*

Bill and Beth Baird - April 25, 2009 at 12:55 AM

BR

“ *Dear Reed Family,
My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you. My prayers are with you at this difficult time. I know how much love Caron had to give as she extended it to me also. She will truly be missed by so many.
God Bless you all.*

Love, Becky (Butler)Randazzo

Becky Randazzo - April 24, 2009 at 01:35 PM