



Emily Stephens Steele

April 23, 1939 - September 28, 2020

Emily S. Steele

April 23, 1939 – September 25, 2020

Emily S. Steele passed peacefully on September 25, 2020. She was born 4/23/1939 in Springfield Missouri, the first of twins. Her love for the arts started as a child living in Plainfield, NH where she met JD Salinger and Maxfield Parrish. Early on she studied violin attending the Mannes Conservatory in NYC, and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. After graduating from Oberlin College, she taught Russian History in high school and then worked at the international center at MIT. While living in Boston, she met Robert Steele with whom she began their life adventure together with a formative two years in Taiwan.

They returned to Boston, beginning a family while Bob completed his medical training. During this time, she found a new passion that would continue throughout her life: stain glass. In 1971, the family of 5 moved to Corvallis, OR where she would raise her children and grow her art career of over 20 years. She exhibited in over 30 shows across the country, with many one woman shows in LA, Portland, and Corvallis. She showed at the National Glass Exhibition in 1981 and International Glass World's Fair in 1982. She was featured in several national art publications as she passionately pioneered a new medium in colored glass, steel, and solder. "Most people look through stain glass; Emily Steele stood it up and built with it," Barbara Curtin. Her

works reside in collections across the United States and the Pacific Rim. Locally, she created the windows for the chapel at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center and the Allison room at the First Presbyterian Church. Her art career was intertwined with her career as a wife and mother of three. She brought beauty and design to everything she created and every place she visited. Teaching those around her to see beyond the frame and into the light. She instilled in all her children the importance of family, being present for your children and their dreams.

She was dedicated to the Arts locally, speaking at the Oregon legislative forum for funding for the arts. She volunteered at the Art Center for several decades, serving 9 years on the Board and 18 years on the exhibitions committee. With Bob they endowed an exhibitions fund to support bringing fine art to be seen locally; and a collection of her works to inspire more artists. In 2010 she was honored by the Benton County Cultural Coalition with their "Lifetime Contribution to Art," and received the honor of Corvallis's "Patron of the Arts," in 2013.

She is survived by her children Ed (Amy); Tom (Kelli); Linda (Christian); her grandchildren: John, Grace, Savannah, Brian, Henry, Jayden, Christian, Lily, Colton, and Logan; and many loving extended family and friends. Special thanks to the staff at Regent Court Senior Living for the amazing and loving care they provided to Emily ensuring her comfort and creativity during her twilight years. Due to the current isolation requirements a funeral service will be held at a future date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, in these challenging times give to those who move your heart the most in her honor. McHenry Funeral Home assisted with arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family below.

Tribute Wall

TC

“ I first met Emily when I was in my early married years and looking for a rental house. I saw a cute little green cottage on the corner of Tyler and 5th St and inquired immediately. A gentle and intelligent woman answered the phone, asked me a few investigative questions that I must have passed, because she then invited me to the look at the house. But what happened next was she first brought me into her own home next door to talk with me more. That was when we knew that your parents would be the kind of people from whom we wanted to rent: genuine and personable. My husband and I moved in and lived next door for about five years. Your mom and dad were amazing landlords, always kind, generous, and inclusive. We will forever think of them fondly and with warmth. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.
Lovingly,
Teresa and Trevan Cornwell

Teresa Cornwell - December 15, 2020 at 03:02 PM

JB

“ In the early 1970's, I had the honor of teaching both of Emily's sons, Edward and Tom at Washington Elementary in Corvallis. I remember her as a special parent who was kind, interested and supportive of her children and their school life; so talented and such a calm presence. My heartfelt sympathies to all her family for the loss of this beautiful human.

Jan (Knight) Babbitt, Albany

Jan Babbitt - November 18, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



McHenry Funeral Home - November 17, 2020 at 05:12 PM

LB

“ *We have great memories of our walks with Emily and Bob around the Marina in Cabo San Lucas and eating meals together next to the Sea of Cortez. We were fortunate enough to see some of Emily's beautiful art work at their home after she had moved to memory care and before the house was sold. We were also fortunate to meet most of the family around the swimming pool at Pueblo Bonito Rose Hotel while your children were young and our granddaughter and daughter were with us. Emily and Bob were very wonderful people. We will miss them greatly. Elizabeth and Paul Buffam, Beaverton, Oregon.*

Liz and Paul Buffam - November 17, 2020 at 11:51 AM