



## Florence Mary Woodard

November 4, 1922 - February 17, 2018

Florence Woodard was born November 4, 1922 in Massena, New York.

She died on February 17 after a long illness.

Florence graduated from high school in Massena at the age of 15, and studied at Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, New York.

She enjoyed her independence in those years, working as a secretary and teaching piano lessons.

In 1950, she married Claude Woodard, whom she met while working at Syracuse University's Department of Engineering.

The Woodards traveled extensively for work and play as they followed Claude's positions as an aeronautical engineer with the Department of the Navy and Lockheed in Ohio, New York, Maryland, Utah, and California. The family loved frequent hiking and camping trips.

Florence's special passion, beyond her family, was classical music. Florence entertained friends on her beloved Steinway piano in Sonoma, California and later in Corvallis. She loved playing piano pieces reflecting her Polish heritage and was an accomplished musician of Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven,

Mozart, and many more.

She also enjoyed spelling bees, reading, current events, hiking and watching golf.

She was a 30 year resident of Sonoma. In 2015, she moved from Sonoma to Corvallis, and missed her community, its beauty and “her quail.” She courageously faced this new adventure at the age of 93. She never tired of nature and felt Oregon was one of the most beautiful places on earth, with its gorgeous puffy clouds.

She was preceded in death by her older brothers, John and Ed Stepien; younger sister, Agatha Bettendorff, and her husband, Claude Woodard.

She is survived by sons, Martin of Boulder, Colorado, Geoffrey of Wilmington, Delaware, and Michael of Tallahassee, Florida; daughter, Suzanne of Corvallis; granddaughter, Lauren of Media, Pennsylvania; and nieces and nephews in various locations.

McHenry Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

She was an elegant, gracious, and cheerful lady until the end and will be sorely missed.

Contributions in Florence’s memory can be made to Lumina Hospice of Corvallis, or to an organization which supports music education for youth.

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ Florence's family will hold a private celebration of life outdoors this summer. The video was made by Michael Woodard, and is a beautiful tribute to our Mother. Her mantra most mornings when she awoke was "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice, and be glad in it". Her spirit remains. - Suzanne Woodard

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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - March 19, 2018 at 12:08 PM

MW

“ 1 file added to the album Early years 1950



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**Michael Woodard** - March 19, 2018 at 06:25 AM

SW

“ Hold onto what is good  
even if it is a handful of earth.  
Hold onto what you believe  
even if it is a tree which stands by itself.  
Hold onto what you must do  
even if it is a long way from here.  
Hold onto life  
even when it is easier letting go.  
Hold onto my hand  
even when I have gone away from you.  
- Pueblo verse

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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - March 01, 2018 at 12:15 PM

MM

“ *I wish I would have gotten to meet and know Florence, but from reading about her in her obituary, I can see where Suzanne has some of the same loves as Florence did. I know Suzanne loves classical music, has taken piano lessons and has a love for nature just like her mother Florence.*

*May the Lord comfort Suzanne, her brothers, her niece and the rest of the family and friends.*

*Sincerely,*

*Marlene McWilliams*

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**Marlene McWilliams** - February 27, 2018 at 06:11 AM

SW

*Thank you, Marlene. From one Caregiver to Another.... we were/are honored to care for our Mothers. It's hard to let go, but I'm certain mine is now at peace and rest.*

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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - March 01, 2018 at 03:41 PM

SW

“ *1 file added to the album Early years 1950*



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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 06:28 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 05:13 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 05:10 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 05:05 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 04:25 PM

SV

“ *John and I had the wonderful opportunity to know the lovely Miss Florence. We always looked forward to our Tuesday meetings. We were also among a select few who were treated with her piano selections. We will miss you our sweet friend but know you're in heaven happily playing your music. God bless you dear friend. Our hugs and prayers go to Suzanne and your whole family. With love, Sue and John Verardo*

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**Sue Verardo** - February 21, 2018 at 05:37 PM

SW

*Dear John and Sue, Mom looked forward each Tuesday to see your smiling faces and your stories of travel and your blessings. Her piano is now in our home with her photo atop, and I've told her I'll be playing it for the rest of my life. Many thanks for your love and prayers for our family's peace and comfort. With gratitude and friendship, Suzanne Woodard*

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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 22, 2018 at 08:47 PM

SW

*Sue and Joh, I know that your visits brightened her life immensely. God bless the work you do, and I will never forget you. Love, Suzanne*

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**SUZANNE WOODARD** - February 25, 2018 at 05:22 PM