



Helen Kay Steffen-West

February 5, 1943 - September 6, 2016

Helen Kay West passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 6, ending her 25+ year long battle with Parkinson's Disease and the associated severe effects of Dementia. She was 73. Her daughter and former husband (caregiver) were with her daily until she passed.

She was born February 5, 1943 in Shelbyville, Illinois. Her parents, George W. Riley and Ada Marie, a brother Earl W. Riley and her husband Douglas West preceded her in death.

Helen Kay lived and attended schools in Decatur, Illinois graduating from Eisenhower High School in 1961. She married her High School sweetheart, Ray C. Steffen in 1966. She worked for Metropolitan Insurance Co. until 1974, her and Ray then moved to Pleasanton, California. Their daughter, Christina Kay Steffen was born in 1975. They then relocated to Corvallis, Oregon in 1977.

Helen Kay received her bachelors Degree in business from Linfield College in December of 1994. She worked at Oregon State University and was then employed for many years with the Benton County Sheriff's Office, retiring in 2006.

Kay had many hobbies associated with the fabric crafts. She was highly

skilled and thoroughly enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, weaving. She enjoyed friends in her book club as well. She was a member of PEO, a women's professional group developing educational scholarships.

After nearly five years of in-home care the decision to move to a care facility was a difficult one but became the only alternative for everyone involved in her care. The Salem Farmington Square Dementia Care facility and Hospice Northwest were invaluable to the family as they dealt with the progressive decline and side effects of various medications. Donations in Kay's name to the hospice programs or to the Alzheimer's/Dementia International Organization are encouraged.

She is survived by her daughter, Christina Kay Lee (Willie) and grandson Adam of Salem, and her sisters Janet Savoie (Bill) of Rocky Ford, Colorado and Robin Brown (Mark) and sister-in-law Earlene Waters of Decatur, Illinois, along with many nieces and nephews. She was married to Douglas E. West in 1991 and has surviving stepchildren Douglas West Jr. of Sedona, Arizona, Mark West of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Greg West of Albany.

Following cremation, a memorial service will be held at 2 pm Friday September 16 at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th Street Corvallis, Oregon.

She was loved and will be missed by all.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **16.** 2:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Helen Kay Steffen-West*



McHenry Funeral Home - October 19, 2016 at 11:14 AM

SK

“ *Kay, Ray, and Christy were neighbors of mine when we all lived up on the hill. Kay and I belonged to a quilting group for years until we disbanded. I went to work and Kay kept on making quilts. Happily those quilts will bring back happy memories to those who have them. I am sorry to hear of her passing and my thoughts and prayers are with Ray, Christy and other family members.*
Sue Kingsley, Alyson, Angie, and Ken

Sue Kingsley - September 16, 2016 at 12:53 PM

RS

Thank you Sue for your kind words. You and your family made living in the neighborhood very special. We all agree, the many quilts become even more special. Our best to you and your family.

Ray Steffen - October 14, 2016 at 04:03 PM

SR

“ Kay and Ray were our first friends when we moved to the midwest, Decatur, IL in 1971. They lived across the street and then next year we planned a wonderful trip together to Europe. Kay and I did some crafts together before they moved to Calif. and both of us had children. A wonderful lady. We were able to visit her in Corvallis a few times before she moved to the nursing home. Ray has been such a wonderful support for her. Our condolences to Christi's family, Ray, and Kay's sisters.

Sally and Don Richardson
Kimberling City, MO

Sally Richardson - September 14, 2016 at 03:45 PM

JS

“ Kay was a longtime friend, and we met in Welcome Wagon in 1977 when we both moved to Corvallis as a part of the HP family.



I'm so happy that Kay was able to make a lifelong dream trip to Ireland.

We went together and were able to attend a daylong cooking demonstration at Ballymaloe Cookery School. We had both always wanted to go there after attending an Irish cooking class given by Francie O'Shea. A dream of Kay's realized!!

My condolences to Christy and Adam and all of the other family members.

She will be missed.

Joyce and Vern Skogen

Joyce Skogen - September 09, 2016 at 08:33 PM