



Kathryn Wood

December 28, 1941 - September 1, 2012

Kathryn Ann Caldwell Wood made another cherished outing with her beloved dogs to the Caldwell “South Farm” only a few days ago, but on Saturday, Sept. 1, she peacefully passed away, surrounded by family members at her Corvallis home.

Kathy had celebrated a milestone 70th birthday this last December with many close friends and relatives, while privately enduring a two-year struggle with cancer.

Kathy’s remarkable life began on an army base at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., only three weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack. Her grade school, high school and college years in Corvallis were contrasted by around-the-world family travels, starting when Kathy was just 8 years old.

The imprint on the five senses formed by the “Orient,” India, Africa, South America and Europe, greatly influenced her perspective and called her back throughout the rest of her life. Strong binding ties among the Caldwell family were formed in faraway, adventurous, intimate settings.

College at Oregon State University was for Kathy a time of budding leadership skills where she became president of her Sigma Kappa sorority and received the All-Campus Woman of Achievement Award.

During and after college, Kathy had a patchwork of work experiences — insurance investigator; gold miner’s assistant; swim teacher and lifeguard; high school English teacher in Colorado; owner and operator of a health-food store in Oakland, Calif.; and child welfare caseworker in Portland, Eugene and

Newport, as well as in Lafayette Hills, Pa. Included in this time period was a marriage lasting four years to her Corvallis sweetheart, John Wood.

A defining midpoint in Kathy's life was the 35th year and graduation from Lewis & Clark Law School. This led to a distinguished career as a criminal defense attorney, first in Eugene, and then for many years in Corvallis. She staunchly represented all kinds of cases, from aggravated murder to juvenile mischief. Kathy said it was "a fascinating way to help people, while forcing the government to uphold our constitutional principles."

For the last 10 years she served as a pro-tem judge in Corvallis, where her wisdom, experience and empathetic character were well applied.

Kathy's generosity towards others also was very evident in her years of community volunteer service and presidency of the Assistance League of Corvallis, president of Chapter CL of PEO, and member and board of directors member of Heartland Humane Society, the Benton County Historical Society, the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Foundation and the Benton-Linn Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Kathy loved and is deeply loved in return by her four nieces and four nephews, with whom she took every occasion to visit, play and travel, and unflinchingly acknowledged their special days by sending gifts and treasures. She is greatly adored and admired by a large following of close relatives, friends and colleagues, including a group of four girlfriends from Harding Elementary School and 19 Corvallis High School graduates with whom she shared annual gatherings and travels.

Last April she spent a week with her siblings on Maui — always an avid swimmer, Kathy swam and snorkeled in the Pacific and proclaimed she had "not felt better in a year!" Kathy's deep reservoir of affection also was certainly directed toward her dogs, "the Babes," who were her loyal playmates on their daily walks and loving companions at their country home.

Kathy always will be a sweet, enduring source of strength for her surviving extended family: her brother, Will Caldwell (wife Julie) of Sun Valley, Idaho, and his children, Kelli, Wyatt, Yancy and Scarlet; sister, Lynn Caldwell

Nordhausen (husband Harald) of Corvallis, and her children, Karina and Jesse; and Karen Caldwell Hogensen of San Antonio, Texas, and her children, Hannah and Henry.

A celebration of her life will take place at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 114 S.W. Eighth St. in Corvallis. A reception is to follow.