



Martha Stafford Dayton

January 23, 1937 - January 13, 2021

Corvallis resident Martha Dayton passed away Wednesday January 13, 2021, at Good Samaritan hospital from the effects of a stroke. She was 83 years old.

Martha was born Martha Stafford on January 23, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents were Beulah and Henry West Jr. At 3 years of age she relocated with her mother and father to Southern California and lived in Rancho Santa Fe until she finished high school in 1954. After high school, Martha studied music at St. Johns College in Maryland where she met her first husband, John Vergene. They married in 1956 then moved to Brooklyn, New York where she was a stay at home mom raising two children together. In 1972 the family moved to Salem, Oregon where Martha starting working at the Statesman Journal in the publishing department. Martha was an accomplished artist, gourmet cook and musician playing the piano at various symposiums during her earlier life. Martha was a wonderful mother and raised two children, Jeff and Jennifer who also married and had 2 children each who Martha adored as her role as "chief grandma." In 2010 Martha met then married long term Corvallis resident Dr. Irving Dayton who recently passed in November 2019. During her life she enjoyed her family and loved art, cooking, travel, reading and music. She will be greatly missed and has been called home by the good lord.

There will be a limited service. The family will plan a memorial gathering in the

next few months.

Any donations can be sent to:

World Wildlife Fund

1250 24th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20037

Please send condolences for the family at www.mchenryfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha Stafford Dayton*



McHenry Funeral Home - January 27, 2021 at 04:51 PM

GC

*Old Mill Center for Children and Families was blessed to be supported by the love, talents and generosity of both Martha and Irv Dayton. Their longtime support of children and families in our community will continue to build bright tomorrows.
Geary Larson Cuniff*

Geary Cuniff - January 27, 2021 at 11:41 PM

SM

“ *We shared the same piano teacher and were in the same class at Bishop's. I studied Greek largely because of Martha. She played the piano for our singing of hymns and was best then at music, at art, and in her consideration of other people. A person whom none of us can or will forget.*

S; Murphy - July 30, 2021 at 07:27 PM

MM

“ Deepest condolences from the staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis. Martha was so greatly supportive of the our mission to serve the youth in our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Mariah Morales - January 27, 2021 at 01:53 PM

LP

“ I only met Martha, as my sisters neighbor, after Irv passed and she was packing to move into her new place. I offered to help her pack and we got to be great pandemic friends. She shared some great stories of life well-lived. I am only sad that I didn't get to say goodbye.

Lisa Perelli - January 21, 2021 at 10:37 AM

NE

“ I had known Marthe for decades. We shared so many memories...of people we knew from the Statesman-Journal, of watercolor workshops we took together, of lunches we shared where Marthe would try and guess the ingredients of the dishes we ordered. We comforted each other through our losses and shared our grieving. We celebrated our happy times as well. I was so thrilled she met Irving and was so happy for so many years. They are together now in whatever afterlife they encountered.

Nancy Ericksen - January 20, 2021 at 03:18 PM

AR

“Martha will be greatly missed by Chamber Music Corvallis--for many years she painted the cover for our brochure based on the instruments of groups that were coming to Corvallis. All of these paintings were lovely. In addition Martha was totally lively and fun. I was lucky enough to visit with her in August and she told me the story of her life--amazing! What an inspiration to all of us to live life to the max!

Amy Rossman - January 19, 2021 at 07:42 PM

CI

I too go back to meeting Marth when she came to work at the Statesman Journal in the late 1970s, and we had remained friends since.

I remember dinners at her house, loaning her my big husky to spend a couple of nights with her at her house in Salem because of some worrisome concerns, and enjoying long visits with our newspaper colleagues.

More recently, I drove to Lewisburg to share lunches with Irv and Marth. She was so gracious and wanted to be sure that I had enough food and always sent me home with a care package.

I was so delighted to see her starting a new chapter in her life in Corvallis. I am so sorry that it was cut short.

I miss you Marth.

Cathy Beckham Ingalls

Cathy Ingalls - January 20, 2021 at 08:12 PM

SM

I will miss her forever. Martha and I attended Bishop's together, shared the same Piano teacher, Mr. Anthony, and after both of us were married and living in different parts of the country, shared our experiences by mail. She was beautiful, as well as musical, kind, considerate, artistic, and never to be forgotten, Susan

S. Murphy - July 23, 2021 at 06:48 PM