



Nancy Medearis

March 7, 1929 - August 4, 2015

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Nancy left to dwell with the Lord Tuesday evening, Aug. 4. In her passing we lost a wonderful and caring wife, mother, teacher and friend. One of God's gracious ladies.

Nancy was born to Fred and Ellamae Judges in Seattle, Washington, March 7, 1929. Her parents accepted an opportunity with AAA Oregon to locate in Portland where she went to elementary school and high school, graduating from Grant High School in 1946. While at Grant she was active in the Campfire Girls. She was recognized as such an excellent representative of the organization that she was selected "honorary" Mayor of Portland for a day.

Summers were often spent with relatives in Sandpoint, Idaho, at Lake Pend Oreille. Her great-grandparents had been telegraphers with the railroad and arrived in the area early in its development and had instrumental in the plotting of the town.

To the dismay of her "Husky" parents, Nancy chose to become a "Beaver" and enrolled at Oregon State. There she made many new and lasting friends. She pledged Kappa Alpha Theta and enjoyed college life while pursuing studies of home economics and education. While there she met O. R. "Bob" Adams, a

navy veteran, returning to school following World War II. They fell in love and were married in Portland on June 14, 1949. They returned to Corvallis to finish college and Nancy graduated in 1950.

Both were hired as teachers at Merrill High School. Nancy fondly remembered that teaching home economics to girls from large farm families was quite a learning experience for her. They were often more accomplished chefs than she.

While in Merrill, Bob and Nancy received a call from his sister, Mary and husband Jack Lampton regarding an opportunity as an early franchise owner of a Baskin-Robbins in Glendale, California. They responded favorably and headed to southern California. She recalled vividly that misters Baskin and Robbins often walked the street in front of the store telling pedestrians of the wondrous taste of the ice cream they had just purchased.

Her father retired from AAA and purchased a fishing resort at Lake Tahkenitch. Quickly they learned that such required operation of the wharf, food service and lure and bait shop. Growing restless of being ice cream merchants, Nancy and Bob returned to Oregon to help at the resort and resume their teaching careers in Reedsport.

While at Tahkenitch the family expanded with the adoption of sisters Rebecca and Melanie. Summers were enriched with the addition of nephews Mike and Pat Lampton. The boys thrived on lake experiences and fit in as part of the family.

By the early '60s the resort was acquired by the government via eminent domain for inclusion in the Dunes recreational area. The family moved inland to Veneta in 1965 where Nancy was to become the bread-winner teaching at Elmira and Crowe; allowing Bob to pursue his doctorate at the U of O.

The '70s found the family in Albany: Bob with LBCC and Nancy with the Albany school district, the girls with school and community activities. Where ever she was located Nancy excelled in community volunteerism, often with the library. She loved swimming: she worked as a life-guard while in high school, and always enjoyed returning to Sandpoint for summer visits at the lake.

As retirement from teaching approached the couple, along with sister and brother-in-law, purchased The Inkwel and by 1977 moved to Corvallis. Upon retirement from education Nancy and Bob became more active partners in store operations as it was converted to becoming the Home furnishings and gifts store it is today.

Upon retirement Nancy and Bob toured the United States evaluating where to locate. After nearly a year they returned to Corvallis concluding it's a pretty nice place to be. Throughout her life she was active in church, PEO, Campfire, Zonta and her bridge clubs. She developed an interest in the Oregon Coast Aquarium, where she was to become a docent after Bob's death in 2003. The motor home trip and freedom from store duties awoke an appreciation of travel within her and she, with girl friends, visited New York City and went an elder hostel in New Orleans.

One day following Church in 2005 she was invited by Ken Medearis to dinner and a show. She accepted and a whirlwind courtship followed. Both found that love still bloomed after 75 and they were married April 23, 2005. The next 10 years flew by with the two building and moving into a new home and enjoying travel to Scandinavia, European River Cruises, road trips through the western United States and Canada as well as vacationing in Hawaii.

Nancy was preceded in death by both parents, a brother and daughter Melanie.

She leaves husband Ken; daughter Rebecca (Tom) McFadden; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was very proud of her extended family (nephews and nieces).

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at the First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis.

Contributions in memory of Nancy may be made to: Chapter FU of PEO Scholarship Fund, Linn Benton Community College, OSU Foundation or the First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis sent in care of McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW Fifth St., Corvallis, OR 97330.

Tribute Wall

PE

“ *I have such fond memories of this gracious, warm lady. She was always welcoming and friendly. A very gentle person. It was my honor to know her.*

Pam Folts Eastburn

pamela eastburn - August 16, 2015 at 04:16 PM

LC

“ *Nancy was blessed with grace and beauty both inwardly and outwardly. May the memories of her loveliness overshadow the extreme grief of her loss.*

Linda Chisholm - August 14, 2015 at 10:44 AM

IK

“ *Ken,*

My thoughts and prayers to all. Nancy was so kind and will be missed by so many. Find comfort in the love of friends and family.

Sincerely,

Ilene Kleinsorge

ilene kleinsorge - August 11, 2015 at 07:59 AM