



## Rosemary Elizabeth Mackey

June 21, 1925 - March 14, 2016

Rosemary Elizabeth Mackey died March 14, 2016, at Timberhill Place Assisted Living Facility in Corvallis.

Born Rosemary Williamson, she enjoyed a long life that began on June 21, 1925, in Kansas City, Kansas. The eldest of four children, she moved with her family to Los Angeles when she was a teenager. Nicknamed “Penny” by her classmates, she was a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, when she met the love of her life, Joseph Mackey, at a Valentine’s Day dance. Rosemary and Joe married in 1947 and had four children. Their union lasted 62 years.

Their life together took them up and down the West Coast, with residences in many parts of Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Yakima, the Seattle area, and finally in Corvallis. Following Joe’s death in 2009, Rosemary got to experience the East Coast when she lived for a few years in Virginia with her daughter, Marie, and her family.

Rosemary was known for her vivacious spirit, her love of reading and her devotion to her Catholic faith. After her children had grown and left the nest, she went back to college in the late 1970s to finish her degree at San Jose State University. Though she was first and foremost a dedicated homemaker, she also worked in education during her years in California as a teacher for

St. Louis of France School in La Puente and as a secretary for St. Martin of Tours School in San Jose, where she became close friends with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary who taught there. She was also a technical writer/editor at a software firm in Santa Clara when Silicon Valley was in its infancy.

Rosemary was always supportive of Joe, delighted to be his “first mate” on their many sailing adventures in the San Francisco Bay. She was at his side when they started a tool and die business in Yakima; she was proud of her role on the burr bench, finishing the parts he machined.

In addition, Rosemary was a skilled seamstress, a great cook and a talented artist who sketched in pencil and charcoal and painted with oils. She used her creative skills to make holiday celebrations special for her family, even when money was tight.

Rosemary is survived by her children and their spouses, Marie Huhtala (Eino) of Petaluma, California, Joseph Mackey (Susan) of Corvallis, Michael Mackey (Fiorenza) of Iowa City, Iowa, and Maureen White (Tom) of Portland. She has six grandchildren, Karen, Caroline, Patrick, Matilda, Zachary and Adam; and four great-grandchildren, Allison, James, Kaito and Mary.

Rosemary was preceded in death by two beloved grandchildren, Christopher Mackey and Jorma Huhtala.

Family and friends are invited to a Memorial Mass for Rosemary at 11 a.m. Friday, April 8, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th St., Corvallis.

The family would like to thank the staff at Timberhill Place for their tender and loving care of Rosemary during her three and a half years of happy residence there, and especially during her final days.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Benton Hospice Service ([www.bentonhopice.org](http://www.bentonhopice.org)).