



Patricia G. (Pat) Phillips

July 20, 1926 - May 4, 2020

Patricia G. Phillips, age 93, died Monday, May 4, 2020, having lived independently until the last two weeks of her life. The daughter of (Daphne) Merle Oliver and Ralph Jefferson Gibbs, she was born July 20, 1926, in Eugene, Oregon. She received her early education in Milwaukie, Oregon, and graduated from Oregon State College in Corvallis in 1948 with a degree in home economics education. She returned to Oregon State in the early 1960s to earn certification in elementary education, then taught first grade at Roosevelt Elementary School.

She met Wayne C. Phillips in junior high, and they were married as OSC undergrads on August 29, 1947. Pat and Wayne settled in Corvallis and raised their daughters there before moving to Marin County, California, in early 1971. They came back to Oregon in 1987, living in Bend, then Portland, before returning to Corvallis in 2006.

Pat's life passion was volunteering. She partnered with other Corvallis parents in the 1950s to establish The ARC of Benton County. In the mid-1970s she worked for the first hospice in California (the second in the United States) as its administrative assistant. She took on additional roles of educator and public speaker for the organization, helping introduce hundreds of people to the then-new hospice concept.

She enjoyed family time, reading, taking daily walks, playing word games, and using her computer. Her interest in genealogy and her meticulous research (pre-World Wide Web) led her to write about multiple branches of the family. She produced several volumes, the most widely distributed of which featured her Oregon pioneer great-grandparents, Eleazar and Nancy Robbins Gilliam. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and the First Congregational Church of Corvallis.

Pat was preceded in death by her first-born daughter, Cheryl Ann, in 1955, and her husband, Wayne, in 2016. She is survived by daughters Janet McKensey (wife Madelyn), Robin Donaldson, and Carol Phillips and granddaughters Arayana McKensey and Emily Donaldson Walsh (husband Tim). Also surviving are nephews Dan Phillips, Bob Phillips

(wife Janet), Jeff Bolin, and Dennis Bolin.

It was Pat's hope that memorial contributions be directed to Community Outreach Inc, 865 NW Reiman St., Corvallis 97330-6177; Lumina Hospice, 720 SW 4th St, Corvallis OR 97333-4426; or First Congregational Church of Corvallis, 4515 SW West Hills Rd, Corvallis OR 97333-3999. At her request, there will be a private celebration of her life.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demosdurdan.com

Comments



“ Carol & family...so very sorry to hear this news. I met Pat a few times and she was always so open and caring. I would run into her at Safeway and she always had a big smile on her face--she always remembered who I was. My deepest sympathies to the family. Gail Mayer



Gail Mayer - May 20 at 07:37 PM



“ Pat was my administrative assistant at Phoenix Leasing in San Rafael, California between 1981 and 1986, She was a joy to work with. After her retirement she and I stayed in touch with the occasional post card, letter or email. I was very sorry to hear of her passing and I want to express my deepest sympathies to her family. Thomas W Johnson

Thomas W Johnson - May 12 at 02:06 PM



“ I did not have the pleasure of meeting Patricia, but she was clearly a lovely, lovely gal. Smart, accomplished, cared deeply about education and was generous of spirit, time and support of others (P.E.O. is a great example). She was the mother of my friend, Janet, who I came to know and work with when living in Corvallis years ago. Rest in peace and I send virtual hugs to Janet and all the other family who had Patricia with them for those 93 years! Terri Elander (Missoula, MT)

Terri Elander - May 11 at 08:26 PM



“ I'm so sorry to learn of Pats' death. I've been a private care giver for a couple of residents at The Regent and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her. She was always positive, inclusive and so easy to talk with. In one of our first conversations I discovered she knew and greatly admired my late sister Bev Larson! From there on she always wanted to know how things were going out at Old Mill Center! I'm so sorry for your loss. Tender thoughts to you all.
Sincerely, Geary "George" Larson Cuniff

Geary Cuniff - May 07 at 12:57 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words.

Maddy - May 08 at 08:52 PM



“ Thank you for sharing that, George. I am Pat's eldest daughter, and I remember her mentioning that she had met "Bev Larson's sister."

Our family became aware of Bev back during Old Mill's Eighth Street days, when my grandfather (Pat's father) Ralph Gibbs somehow learned that there was a teacher who could use some help with repairs and such. As a retired carpenter and wizard handyman, he found many ways to volunteer his talents, and he particularly enjoyed collaborating with Bev to construct special pieces of play equipment that she designed. During an open house near the end of her OMC career, Bev mentioned to Pat and me that one of those pieces of play equipment still was in use.

Thanks again for thinking of us.

Janet - May 08 at 09:00 PM



“ Oh, Janet..thank you for reminding me of your grandfather's connection with Bev and OMC! Your mom did tell me that one time when she joined Mary Jane, Milt and me for lunch...

Your mom was pretty special.

Geary - May 09 at 08:12 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Pat's death. She was a beautiful, kind and thoughtful woman. She always made me feel so comfortable and welcome at Phillips' family functions. I will remember her devotion to Wayne and her daughters and grand daughter. Please know that you are all in my prayers as you take this new journey of Pat's passing.

“Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give but cannot. All of that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in the hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go”. Jamie Anderson

Mary Winter - May 09 at 10:06 PM



“ Janet, I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. My sympathy and love to you and your family

Jane Peterson - May 11 at 08:10 PM



“ Very gracious people, both Pat and Wayne. I was their church stewardship campaign visitor for the first couple years after they had returned to Corvallis and recall having pie at their place. I will remember them kindly.

Brian Lee - June 07 at 02:01 AM