



Bobbie June Gates

August 28, 1944 - October 7, 2020

Bobbie June Gates, 76 passed away with family by her side, on October 7, 2020. Her 4+ year fight against cancer is over. Born August 28, 1944 to Ralph and Doris Ferguson in Beatrice, Nebraska. She was preceded in death by her parents and Brother Richard Ferguson. As a child she lived in Wymore, Hastings and Lincoln, Nebraska, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1962 and the University of Nebraska in 1998. She is survived by her husband, William; her 3 children, Damon Munroe (Brenda) of Lincoln; Eric Kurth of McMinnville; and Tige Kurth (Elizabeth) of Corvallis; 2 step-sons, 14 Grandchildren, and 2 Great Grandchildren.

After working many years as a claims supervisor in Lincoln and then as a bailiff for Lancaster County courts, Bobbie returned to school and received her Psychology Degree from the University of Nebraska. She found her calling as a social worker at a longterm care facility in Iowa. It has been said Bobbie never met a stranger, she could talk to anyone and make them feel comfortable and welcome. Her natural abilities shined when working with the families and patients at the care facility. Bobbie and Bill were married at Living History Farms in Urbandale, Iowa on September 8, 2001. In 2008, they moved to Oregon, first living in Philomath and then Corvallis.

Bobbie always had a love of music. While living in Lincoln, she took voice and piano lessons and sang with a jazz group in and around the Lincoln Hay

Market Area. In Iowa, she sang with the Drake University/Des Moines Choir, and started playing flute as an adult. She began taking flute lessons and soon joined Bill in playing with the Des Moines New Horizons Band and Urbandale Community Band. Bobbie and Bill have traveled around the country to participate in more than 30 New Horizons Band Camps. In Oregon, her Flute and Piano lessons continued and the couple began playing with the Corvallis New Horizons Band, the Corvallis Community Band, and later the New Horizons Willamette Valley Orchestra. The Orchestra, which Bobbie founded, practices in Monmouth. She used to joke that she had always wanted to play in an Orchestra and that starting one accomplished that goal. The Orchestra has played music for the mid-valley since 2015.

There will be a brief graveside service on Wednesday, October 14th, 10:00 am at Oak Lawn Memorial Park (with mask and social distancing). A celebration of life will be held at a later, safer date. Arrangements by DeMoss-Durdan. Memories and photos may be shared on their website: www.demossdurdan.com Remembrance gifts may be made to: The New Horizons Willamette Valley Orchestra, 4728 NW Veronica Pl, Corvallis, OR 97330 www.nhwillvalleyorch.org The family wishes to thank Samaritan Evergreen Hospice and the Samaritan Pastega Regional Cancer Center for their caring help.

Previous Events

Graveside

OCT **14**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Oak Lawn Memorial Park
2245 SW Whiteside Drive
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Bobbi was with our New Horizons Band in Des Moines since it started.*

She was fun loving she loved music very much.

She was an encouragement to other players and was always upbeat and positive.



Bonnie Schaeffer - February 09, 2021 at 10:13 PM

SB

“ *4 files added to the album Bobbie*



Sheila Burgess - October 14, 2020 at 12:42 AM

SB

“ *Bobbie and I have been friends since 1989 when we started working together in Lincoln, NE. We have kept in touch, traveled together, visited each other's homes, spent holidays together, had hours upon hours of phone conversations and shared life's ups and downs over the past 31 years. My husband Rob and Bobbie graduated together from UNL. She was always a wonderful cheerleader, full of encouragement and kind words. She was fun, hardworking and ready for an adventure. I will be forever grateful to call her my friend and I will miss her dearly.*



Sheila Burgess - October 14, 2020 at 12:34 AM

MI

“ *I will miss my visits with Bobbie, for the last 12 years we met almost every other week so I could do her nails. I always looked forward to seeing her. She was a bright star in my day. She told me all about her family and her life. We shared stories of our children and grandchildren. she loved her family dearly. She talked about her life with Bill and how happy they were. I'm going to miss her so much.*
.Michelle Hancock

Michelle - October 14, 2020 at 12:12 AM

BG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Bill Gates - October 13, 2020 at 02:24 PM

BG

The German Band Class performs at the end of the Band Camp in Holland, Michigan. Bobbie is wearing a white shirt in the middle of the group.

Bill Gates - October 13, 2020 at 03:43 PM

PD

“ *My wife Susan and Bobbie share birthdays -- not merely the date but the same day on the same year. One of them was six hours older than the other (I can never remember which). But they always felt like "sisters". Susan and I truly enjoyed playing in the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra that Bobbie started. We were blessed to know her as a friend!*
Paul & Susan Doellinger

Paul Doellinger - October 12, 2020 at 09:54 PM

BG

“ *4 files added to the album Memories Album*



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 09:02 PM

BG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 09:00 PM

BG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:55 PM

BG

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:52 PM

BG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:48 PM

BG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:45 PM

BG

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:39 PM

BG

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:31 PM

BG

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:28 PM

BG

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill Gates - October 12, 2020 at 08:15 PM

RE

“ I treasure memories of time spent with Bobbie and Bill. Bobbie was so much fun and she always made me laugh. All of us in New Horizons Music are indebted to her. She served on the Board of Directors and started two New Horizons programs in Oregon. Even while fighting cancer, she was cheerful. Pat and I enjoyed visiting Bobbie and Bill several times in their home. I will always remember Bobbie fondly. Roy Ernst

Roy Ernst - October 11, 2020 at 12:31 PM

SO

“ I first met Bobbie when she and Bill came to observe our New Horizon Band before they moved here. I have enjoyed time spent with her ever since. She was always welcoming and fun. She loved music of course and was so generous in many ways. She had such a can do approach to life which showed during her long cancer fight. She was so strong
I will miss her.
Sharon Oefelein

Sharon Oefelein - October 10, 2020 at 10:39 AM

KO

“ I met Bobbie in the community's senior band, New Horizons band. She was a happy, free spirit, quick with a smile or a joke. With a sparkle in her eyes she would help anyone. She loved playing music with friends. I became a friend, and we played together, making little duets, trios, quartets. I will miss her.

Ken Oefelein - October 10, 2020 at 10:11 AM

SG

“ I too, met Bobbie for the first time at the Corvallis Community Band. That Band has spawned so many friendships and memories of good times making music together! Bobbie and I would sit together and we soon became fast friends. Over the years, we have shared many adventures together, often either driving down to Eugene for an afternoon of lunch and shopping together, or up to Salem to visit our "Favorite Institutions up there (Nordstrom's, and Macy's), always finding a fun place to have lunch. Over our twelve plus years of friendship, Bobbie never failed to reach out to me if she felt we hadn't touched bases in a few weeks, and she wanted to be sure I was ok. She took flute lessons from me, and we always spent almost as much time chatting about our lives as we did playing the flute! I will miss my dear friend, but she will always be with me in spirit. Aloha Nui Loa (with much love), Sue

Susan Gillespie - October 09, 2020 at 04:31 PM

MA

“ [I shared the following with Bobbie a couple of weeks ago -- she was tickled and I'm sure she wouldn't mind me sharing it with you.]

Ever since I met Bobbie, so long ago at Corvallis Community Band, I've had a fun kind of a multi-faceted impression of her. On the one hand, it was always easy to see the side of her that was nurturing and can-do, e.g., the love she had for her family and friends was always shiny-bright, front & center, and her Full Speed Ahead/Taking Care of Business side also revealed itself beautifully. But...

I could also easily imagine her in a smart, black sequined cocktail dress with her hair in a rakish pageboy fronting a hip pick-up band in an after-hours club somewhere in Kansas City. I'll miss and hold dear my real-world memories of Bobbie...and I'll cherish my slightly altered-Universe version of her as well -- classy, jazzy and cool.

Marvel - October 09, 2020 at 01:03 AM