



Jane Ellen Robison

June 11, 1942 - February 2, 2024

Jane Ellen Robison passed away peacefully at home on February 2, 2024. Jane was born in Huntington Beach, CA on June 11th, 1942 and had fond memories of her parents, Wilfred “Ted” and Bernice Robison, and her sister, Sarah, who preceded her in death. She spent time in both Phoenix and Winslow, Arizona prior to settling in Oregon in 1971.

Jane was incredibly tenacious and a fierce advocate for people with disabilities. She was the first resident of Martha House to exit and successfully achieve independent living. When House Bill 2169 was introduced, Jane testified before the Human Resources Committee to emphasize the need for exit programs to allow individuals the opportunity to challenge themselves and grow in their independence. Her efforts in that as well as in advocacy towards securing funding for that initiative were instrumental – not only for the bill itself, but to model the power of a strong voice.

Jane took immense pride in the perseverance and determination she had that allowed her to achieve her goals. She served on the board of directors for the Housing for the Handicapped; was part of the reach-out program for the Community Friendship Program; and volunteered at a day care center and a nursing home. She served in many helping roles, including as a nurse’s aide, where she was described as being exceptional at her job. She also worked Nendel’s Inn and was the longest-employed member of the housekeeping staff at the time, receiving the award for “Most Dependable.” At the age of 37, she was the first Corvallis recipient of the OARC’s Nagy Award for her

outstanding achievements. Community members, family members, co-workers, past employers, and friends all wrote letters of nomination and support for this honor, and she cherished sharing these letters throughout her life.

Her former pastor described her this way: “More important than her achievements, which I consider to be substantial, is her spirit, which is magnificent.” Jane made an impact on everybody's life that she made an encounter with. Whether it was co-workers who nicknamed her “Pumpkin” after the orange poncho she wore while bicycling around town; the relationship she had with the staff of Corvallis Nail Spa where she enjoyed manicures for decades; or those who she shared her jokes and quick comebacks with, she was a memorable presence. She was known for her brightly colored hair (usually pink, purple, or blue, even in her final years!) and always dressed to impress! She was a published poet and prolific watercolor artist who had exhibited her work. Jane’s faith was a cornerstone of her life, and she was a longtime member of the congregation at First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis.

Jane had an amazing personality. Jane truly cared about others and took time to check in and ask about their lives. She loved the coast; having long, full telephone conversations with her friends; shopping trips; long walks around her neighborhood; and sharing stories about her childhood. In 2017 Jane moved into Benco’s Grant House where she was surrounded by many caregivers that had the pleasure of serving her and getting to know her throughout the years. She is survived by her nephews, Charles L. and Paul W. Blair of Wisconsin; her memory lives on in the minds of many who knew her.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **29**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

First Presbyterian Church
114 SE 8th Street
Corvallis, OR 97333