



Jean Starker Roth

February 17, 1920 - March 27, 2015

On March 27th, Jean Starker Roth passed from this world at her home after living a full and wonderful life. Jean was born in Portland Oregon to Thurman “TJ” and Margaret Starker. She had a brother Bruce, who preceded her in death. The family moved to Corvallis when Jean was two and except for a few years of living in Portland after her marriage to Kermit Roth, has resided in Corvallis all her life. She graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in Home Economics and stayed involved in the field in one way or another all her life. Before being married, she was a home demonstration agent for Lane and Clatsop County and also was a war food assistant for Camp Adair. She also taught Home Economics at McKenzie High School in Blue River Oregon. She judged many 4-H projects over the course of her life both in sewing and cooking competitions. This was her passion.

She was a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi National Honor Society for Extension. Jean was an accomplished cook and seamstress and entertained with grace and amazing hospitality. One time Kathy Ringo and Jean actually cooked for James Beard. She knit beautifully and made many treasured afghans for her family.

Kermit and Jean had a lifelong love for each other. They were married 30 years until Kermit died unexpectedly and far too soon. Jean went on to carry out her many business activities and civic leadership activities with courage

and zeal. She was an accomplished business woman and a generous philanthropist. She was an original member of the Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary and was made an honorary Trustee of Good Samaritan when Kermit died. She volunteered in many capacities with 4-H and was actively involved in their programs. Jean was so friendly with everyone that she became instrumental in the fundraising campaigns for the remodeling of the Emergency Room, the Heart Center and Cancer and the Mario Pastega House. She had a commitment to help others and she wanted to make sure they got good care here, where they lived. She served on an advisory committee for the school of Health and Human Sciences and was instrumental in the funding and building of the Bates Family Studies Center. Families and healthy habits were important to her and she spent her life teaching those habits to others.

Other activities included being on the Alumni Association Board for OSU, working with the OSU Library and being on the board of the Benton County Museum. She organized and planned the Kermit E Roth gateway park that welcomes all to Corvallis as they cross over the bridge into the city. In 2000 Jean was awarded the most honorable member of the OSU president's club and the E.B. Lemon Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001. She was a member of the 4-H century club from 2006 until the present. She was a beaver thru and thru. She attended most all the home football and basketball games since the age of two and was just recognized by Benny Beaver for that achievement. She would often travel with the teams to lend her support and was their most avid fan.

Jean was a very classy lady yet she knew how to have fun. She loved to laugh and was equally at home at a formal dinner or with a fishing rod in her hand. She loved boat rides, the flowers in her yard and most of all dessert. We children are glad she is finally with her beloved husband and resting well after a very full life.

Jean is survived by her four children, Kenneth (Pam Culley-McCullough) of Vista, CA, Kreg (Judy) Bend, OR, Kathy Clifford (Meade), Portland, OR, Kim (Walt) Corvallis, OR. She has ten grandchildren ,Derrick and Daniel Roth, Tracy Beckwith and McKenzie Mendel, Brent, Collin and Grant Clifford, Jennifer, Kristen and Scott Griffiths. She also has eight great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Lasells Stewart Center 875 SW 26th Street Corvallis 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 4, 2015.

Contributions to Jean's memory may be made to Good Samaritan Hospital, Oregon State University College of Health and Human Sciences, 4-H, or Benton County Foundation. Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossdurdan.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 4. 11:00 AM (PT)

LaSells Stewart Center
875 SW 26th St
Corvallis, OR 97333

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I was so sad when I realized that I never got to meet Jean but when I come to think of it I did meet her she might not have met me but I still was so interested in Jean. People like her because she had an interesting life and she was a very kind lady. I know this was hard on her family, and I should know because my Great-grandfather just passed in February, and that was hard enough on me, but imagine how the rest of the family feels. So I just want Jean's family to know that we are all there for you if you need a hug, or just some company trust me you'll know she is in the right place if you just stop feeling sad. This for Jean.



Megan Scharf - July 18, 2015 at 06:06 PM

MS

“ Megan Scharf sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Starker Roth



Megan Scharf - July 18, 2015 at 05:57 PM

MS

“ Megan Scharf sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Starker Roth



Megan Scharf - July 18, 2015 at 05:56 PM

MS

“ *Megan Scharf lit a candle in memory of Jean Starker Roth*



Megan Scharf - July 18, 2015 at 05:55 PM

CS

“ *To the Family of Jean Roth,
We send our condolences to the family. We were out of the state for a couple months so were unable to attend the funeral. Bond Starker did give us a call saying Jean had passed away. Our thoughts and prayers were and are with you all.
Your Mom was such a very special lady. I always enjoyed visiting with her. I worked for your Dad back in 1961-63. He also was a wonderful person. Then I went to work for Starker Forests in 1988 and reunited with your Mom again.
She will be missed by us all. Blessings to all of you.
Ken & Carol Stueve*

Carol Stueve` - April 24, 2015 at 02:05 PM

PH

“ On behalf of the Howland family, I extend condolences to Roth family with the passing of Jean. She was a wonderful friend to both Jim and Meisy Howland, and her continued correspondence with Mother after we moved Mother to Wisconsin, was very much appreciated by all of the Howland family. To me that showed what a kind heart Jean had, and I will always remember her smile and her laugh. She did so much for Corvallis and for Oregon State University, and I will always appreciate her generosity. Wishing you the very best at this difficult time.

*Peter Howland
McMinnville, Oregon*

Peter Howland - April 20, 2015 at 10:09 PM

WS

“ Walt and I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the Starker and Roth families.
Walt remembers delivering groceries to the Starker family from Schmidt's Red and White grocery store...Also he enjoyed selling flowers to Jean over the years from Schmidt's Garden Center...Again our deepest sympathy..
Walt and Wilma Schmidt

Wilma Schmidt - April 05, 2015 at 09:09 AM

SC

“ Kathy, I was sorry to read about your mother's passing. I know this has to be a tough season for you, as I just went through this last year with the loss of my mother. May God's grace renew you and guide you as you continue on life's journey.
Stuart Conrad

Stuart Conrad - April 03, 2015 at 07:18 PM

BL

“ *Becky Lane lit a candle in memory of Jean Starker Roth*



Becky Lane - April 02, 2015 at 08:00 PM

BR

“ *I miss seeing Jean. The last couple of years travel has been difficult for me as well as for Jean. But, rooming and boarding with Jean was a treat. There was a great cook in the kitchen and wonderful companionship as we attended meetings and dined out. We shared many football trips and Oregon State gatherings in various locations and had great fun doing it. Nice memories for me, a long- time friend and classmate.*

I extend my sympathy to every member of Jean's family.

Betty Root, Medford, Oregon

Betty Root - April 02, 2015 at 06:13 PM

SS

“ Back in the early 90s I was privileged to travel with her and others on a Fred Zwahlen tour to Switzerland - Jean Eggers was on that trip, Wally & Carol Johnson, Dave Nishitani and others. We stayed at the same hotel each night and had great trips during the day on the rail cars, and it was so much fun. When we got back to the hotel each night, we didn't do too much as a group, but on the final night, things changed!

I still tell this story a lot: Jean wanted to have everyone over for some snacks and cocktails. She stocked up her bar, and she either really wanted to have Johnnie Walker scotch, or Jim Beam whiskey - I don't remember which. The one she wanted was her favorite. However, she ended up buying the wrong one.

She was very apologetic to us all for not getting what she had intended, and I so much remember her saying "I got my boys mixed up".

We were able to stay in touch for a while, but then I moved away from town. That trip was very special, and so glad I got to know her!

Stan Selfridge

Stan Selfridge - April 02, 2015 at 02:34 PM

KC

“ Jean was such a classy lady! I always considered her a good friend, a great business mind, and someone who was always at the table when Mario Pastega had another fund-raising project! I will never forget my lunch with Jean and Mario at Big River, when he was leading the fund-raising effort for the Mario Pastega House at the Hospital. We all knew we were giving MORE money and we laughed, having a good time supporting his leadership.

Jean was often a quiet leader. On the Mercedes Bates and Hallie Ford buildings at OSU, she was remarkably supportive in helping to make those projects happen. She was business savvy and smart, and always brought good information and help to the table. People enjoyed working with her!

I know she had a loving family, and she loved them dearly. This community will miss Jean. We will miss seeing her near the front row at every OSU basketball game. We will miss her smile and community leadership! Our thoughts are with this entire family as this will be a substantial transition. We are so glad she is at peace. Our prayers are with all of you. Karla Chambers

Karla Chambers - April 01, 2015 at 06:17 PM

GG

“ Jean was so very welcoming regardless of the situation - always enjoyed her friendship and the many dinners with her...

Greg Goracke - April 01, 2015 at 12:02 PM

BM

“ I will always remember Jean and her friendly smile and the way she opened her heart to you as a friend. She will be missed by many, I know I will.

Bill Maddy - April 01, 2015 at 11:16 AM