



Karen Kragh Starleaf

July 6, 1938 - July 24, 2018

Starleaf, as she was known in later years, was the daughter of Harold Gordon and Irene May (Collins) Kragh. She was born in Santa Monica, California, and was graduated from Santa Ana High School in California and California State University, Fullerton.

She taught elementary school students for 20 years in Southern California. After her stopped car was struck by a van, neck and shoulder pain made teaching no longer feasible. She subsequently trained and served as a hospice volunteer.

After a seven-year stopover in Washington state, she moved to her favorite town of Corvallis in 1995. Increasingly home-bound in recent years, she ran bingo games for the elderly for 10 years and also served R.S.V.P. as a phone tracker for volunteer hours for over 20 years.

Maintenance and nurturing of her Little Library was one of her joys, along with periodic visits to Depoe Bay and, especially, her backyard with birds, squirrels, chicories, raccoons, possums and other critters.

She leaves behind her husband, Ron Davis; daughter, Monica Starleaf and her husband, Volker Weiss of Maui, Hawaii; granddaughters, Marina Riker and her husband, Paul Neidhardt, of Victoria, Texas, and Ruby Riker of

Portland, Oregon.

Starleaf died peacefully at home. The family wishes to thank Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care for their services, and Compassion and Choices for their kind support. Thanks also to Dakini Gardens Sangha and Visiting Angels support for easing her transition.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to her favorite charities, Chintimini Wildlife Center and the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis.

No services are planned. A gathering of friends and family to honor her life will occur at her home in Corvallis on Saturday, July 30. Please contact the family at 541-754-8306 for details.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I believe it was 1968/69 I had Ms. Starleaf as my 2nd Grade teacher at Star View School in Midway City, Orange County, CA. I have an indelible memory of this free-spirited, kind hippie that taught our class that year! Her gogo boots and long red hair were quit a contrast compared to most of the stereotypical teachers of that era. She would regale us with stories of her weekend adventures which always included her daughter who was about our same age whom she adored and spoke of often. I remember her leaving the parking lot in her 60's VW station wagon while we waited for the bus. She also taught us what Ms. Was and the importance of the women's suffrage and equality movement which most of us were oblivious to. I will always have fond memories of Ms. Starleaf, she was a kind, warm disciplinarian who taught us kids who were eager to learn. I am glad I had the opportunity to spend that year learning more than just the standard curriculum from her. She is part of our history and we are part of her. Godspeed Ms. Starleaf. Thank you.

Michael Maxham - August 29, 2020 at 03:15 PM