



Kathleen Arneil

June 20, 1918 - March 2, 2018

Kathleen 'Kay' O'Connor Arneil of East Wenatchee, WA passed away on March 2, 2018 surrounded by her loving family. Kay was born on June 20, 1918 in Okanogan, the second of four children of Alec and Opal (Dunlap) O'Connor. Kay graduated from Wenatchee High in 1935 and attended Nazareth College in Louisville, Kentucky. She transferred to the University of Washington and pledged the Delta Gamma sorority. In the late 1930s, Kay was the only woman in North Central Washington recruited to the civilian pilot core, and earned her license to fly planes in her early 20s.

She met the love of her life, Jim Arneil, in Seattle, but they didn't develop a romance until Jim came to Wenatchee to work in her father's law firm (a surprise to Kay!). Jim joined the FBI and was stationed in Hawaii, where they married on September 8, 1941. Transfers took them to Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco.

Kay led a happy and fulfilling life dedicated to her family and community of friends. She and Jim were great boaters for the entirety of their life together, which made for many adventurous weekends with their kids, Ann and Peter. She was a passionate, skilled golfer who did not hang up her clubs until the age of 94. Loved by a multitude of friends, Kay was always the life of the party. She and Jim traveled domestically and abroad, afloat and ashore, with and without their boat or motorhome, often rendezvousing with friends and always making new ones. Her contributions to her community and social circles were vast. She played bridge regularly. She was a beautiful dresser, and is famed for always wearing darling, noticeable shoes.

Kay had definite opinions and stated them fiercely and skillfully. She was an accomplished conversationalist. She had so many friends because she always showed such a strong interest in the lives of others. She extolled the virtues of good posture and the 5:00 martini.

She will be remembered for her devotion to God, her committed presence at Holy Apostles, her constant prayers for her family and her generosity to the community.

After losing Jim in 2010, we all knew that she wanted only to follow him, but each day she was alive, she stayed interested in her family, kept abreast of the latest books, continued her disciplined lifestyle, and gradually replaced activity with deepening relationships with each of us. Each time we left, we were more full of love than when we came.

For our family, the passing of Kay is the end of an era. She was our last elder of her generation, and the nucleus around which we happily gathered. She is deeply a part of us, and we will be changed by the loss of her.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband Jim; parents, Alec and Opal; sisters Patricia and Joan, and brother Jim. She is survived by daughter Ann (Dave) and son Peter (Sharmon); grandchildren Geoff (Katherine) Sonn, Shannon Sonn, Laura (Andrew) Litschi, Kevin (Nicole) Sonn, Solyssa (Mike) Visalli, five great-grandchildren Kayla, Sophie, Michael, Xander, and Declan; also nieces Tracy Bell, Kathleen Sheehy, Julie O'Connor and Megan Ashenbrenner and nephews Sean O'Connor and Bill and Dick Greeley.

The family thanks Wenatchee Hospice workers and caregivers Theresa, Wendy, Shirley, and Amanda for the wonderful care they gave to Mom these last months.

A Rosary will be recited on Friday, March 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in East Wenatchee, WA. Burial will take place at the Wenatchee City Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2018. A Memorial Mass will be said at 12:30 p.m. at Holy Apostles Catholic Church on March 10, followed by a reception at the church. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Central Washington Hospital-Home Care 1020 N. Wenatchee Avenue or to a local charity of your choice.

Comments



“ I have nothing but good memories of your mother & father. They were such good friend to Sam and Mary Mills when their golden years weren't golden at all. Your mother and father are reunited with the Quarter Club and should be scheduling a gala event. I'll have to send you a copy of our parent (circa 1950's early 60's) at an event. Your mother will be in my prayers tonight.

Christopher Mills



Christopher Mills - March 07, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ Kay was a dear person who always brought a smile to my face when she came to the Wenatchee Library. We shared many book talks and her sharp mind was truly inspiring. I will truly miss seeing her each month. Thanks to those who enabled her to come and pick out her items. My God bless your family.

Kathy Holscher

kathy holscher - March 06, 2018 at 04:25 PM