

**Gayle Jacobson(1945 - 2011)**

Gayle Shannon Jacobson

August 26, 1945 - November 23, 2011



BEND -Gayle lost her life to cancer but it could not defeat her deep faith, spirit, determination, grace and love for all those she knew. She passed away in the house she loved, her "Tree House" surrounded by the love of her family and the gentle care of Partners in Care.

Gayle was born in Pendleton, Oregon to Laome and Ernest Pennington, the youngest and only daughter with four older brothers. She graduated from Pendleton High School in 1963 and attended Eastern Oregon College. She married the love of her life Rick Jacobson in 1965. Gayle decided to forego her education in order to support her new husband as he completed his education. She brought into this world in 1967 what she always believed was her gift from God, their daughter Kirstan Leigh Jacobson.

During her years in Pendleton she was a member of the Mustangers, participating on her horse in barrel racing and pole bending. She was an accomplished rider and she and her fellow horsewomen spent many hours on cattle drives in the Blue Mountains. She was also a member of her high school dance team and a member of the college cheerleading squad.

After completion of her husband's education they relocated to Portland, Oregon where as a wife and mother she began her career in education. She worked for the Dean of the Industrial Arts school at Portland Community College at the Sylvania Campus and later on the Rock Creek Campus. When they relocated to Hillsboro, Oregon in 1976, she began her love affair and long career working in Special Education. She worked with the special education students at JB Thomas Junior High School for several years, and then moved to the Tigard School district where she was involved in developing the ABLE Alternative school program located in King City. In 1986, the family moved to Keizer, Oregon where she joined the Special Education program at McNary High School where she worked until her retirement in 2002. She loved all of her students and always demanded they give their best effort. She made a difference in their lives.

After retirement she was able to pursue her dream -- she oversaw the design and construction of their new home in Bend, Oregon, the house she called her Tree House.

When her husband retired from NORPAC Foods, Inc. in 2006, they were able to pursue their long held travel plans. Her dream of touring Italy was achieved when she received a gift of an Italian trip. The trip was in recognition of her unyielding support of her husband, as well her duties as the first lady of NORPAC for the 12 years Rick was the President and CEO of the Cooperative.

Although she would deny it, she had many talents. She was a wonderful cook and saw that as something to improve upon continually. She was definitely a bling girl with a talent for fashion and a creative knack for staging home interiors. She loved Christmas and her talents always reflected her love of family, friends and the season. Her greatest talent was collecting people and she loved them all. Anyone who knew her has a memory of her counsel on life, love, or hardship.

Throughout most of her adult life she was a supporter and advocate for Residence XII, a women's treatment center in Bothell, Washington. She also was dedicated to and supported our veterans and was a strength in her brother Dee's life as he spent most of his life in the care of the Department of Veterans' Affairs after his return from his second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968.

Gayle leaves behind her husband Rick Jacobson, who was lucky enough to marry the love of his life; her daughter Kirstan Sanders and husband Mark, whom she adored.

Also surviving Gayle are her brothers, Ernest Pennington and Eldon Pennington; sisters-in-law Nan Pennington, Kris Mcbath, Karen Boylen and their husbands; seven nieces and nephews; 10 grand nieces and nephews; and those other children that know her as GG.

She is predeceased by her parents and brothers Everyl Pennington and Sgt. Everett Pennington.

Gayle lived her life with intention and she touched all those she came in contact with; the absence of her presence is everywhere.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 1444 Liberty Street SE, Salem, Oregon on December 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. There will be a private family inumment at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton, Oregon at a later date.

Charitable contributions in Gayle's memory may be made to the St. Charles foundation Harvest of Hope 2500 NE Neff Rd, Bend, OR 97701; or Residence XII 12029 113th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98034.

Baird Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements (541) 382-0903. [www.bairdmortuaries.com](http://www.bairdmortuaries.com)

Published in StatesmanJournal on November 30, 2011

