



Joyce Catherine Kaaland

September 16, 1940 - October 1, 2024

Joyce Catherine Kaaland was born on September 16, 1940 in Olympia, WA. to Peter Earl and Helen C. Hemmi. Joyce passed away peacefully on October 1, 2024, at the age of 84.

Growing up in Olympia, Joyce developed a love for music and learning that lasted throughout her life. She learned to play piano and the flute at an early age. Joyce became an accomplished flutist who played with the Tacoma Symphony, local theatres, her church and taught private lessons.

Joyce graduated high school in Olympia, attended Centralia College earning her associates degree, then transferred to Western Washington University where she met Michael Kaaland in 1964. Joyce married Michael on September 12, 1964, and together they raised three daughters Kathryn Michelle, Karen Renee, and Kimberly Ann in Port Orchard, Wa.

Joyce had a love for the outdoors which was incorporated into family life. Through the years, the family enjoyed outdoor activities such as camping, and exploring new places on family vacations.

Joyce also loved embracing new experiences and cultures. When her children were grown, Joyce decided to continue her education at Olympic College and the University of Washington (Go Huskies). In 1995 Joyce graduated Cum

Laude with a bachelor's degree in Asian studies. After graduation, the Lutheran Church awarded her a 5 year grant to teach English and to instruct refugees on how to earn their citizenship and G.E.D. In 2003, Joyce and Mike travelled to China where Joyce was inspired to return two more times to share her love of teaching English as a second language.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Mike Kaaland; their three daughters, Kathryn Reishus (William), Karen Ward (Dean), and Kim Robison (Kyle); her brother, Ronald Hemmi (Dianna); six grandchildren, Jeremy, Dean, Kristina(Brian), Jonathon, Drew, and Derek: along with her two nephews Peter and Charlie. She was predeceased in death by her parents, Peter Earl and Helen Hemmi and her beloved Aunt Peg.