



Louise Lou Joyce Starr

March 4, 1935 - February 24, 2018

Louise Joyce Starr of Bellingham, WA, passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She died peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones.

Louise (Lou) was born on March 4, 1935 in St. Louis, the first of three children of Myra and M.G. Joyce, a Methodist minister. She attended high school in Sikeston, MO, and Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO, where she was a pre-med major. She attended medical school at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, where she met her first husband, Bill McCullough. Lou left medical school after three years to devote herself to her new family. They spent the early years of their marriage in New Orleans, where Bill completed his medical residency. Lou had many fond memories of the six years she lived in New Orleans – she formed lifelong friendships, developed an interest in politics and social justice, and survived Hurricane Betsy. She also learned to play bridge, parlaying her high intellect into a shrewd hand of bridge. Eventually, she obtained a Master's in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, and followed her true calling, which was providing counseling to those in need. She was a therapist for many years at Family Services/United Way and Lakeside Hospital in Memphis. Prior to the passing of her second husband, Jason Starr, she lived in Los Angeles and Taipei, Taiwan. She continued her social work practice at the Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic in Bellingham, and she had a private practice for several years in Bellingham

before retiring.

Lou was an accomplished pianist and shared her love of music with all who knew her. Volunteering with the Bellingham Festival of Music brought her great joy, as did travelling the world, playing her baby grand piano, gardening, following politics, volunteering with MoveOn.org, being an active member of her church, and eating a Dairy Queen Blizzard®. Lou was a candidate in the 2016 presidential election, with her daughter, Beth, casting her write-in vote for Lou as president.

Above all else, Lou enjoyed spending time with her beloved husband, James (Jim) Bradshaw, whom she met at the First Congregational Church of Bellingham. Lou and Jim spent many happy years together, enjoying music, friends, and family. Lou provided her family with a multitude of gifts, including intellectual curiosity, humor, compassion, generosity, and a passion for music. These traits shine through in her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Jim, of Bellingham, and her children, Amy Jungwirth of Covington, TN, Bill (Erica) McCullough of Larkspur, CA, and Jeanne (Andrew) Lewis of Arlington, VA. Lou is fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Nick, Alexandra, Joseph, Andrew, Kathryn, and Abby, and by her sister, Carol Joyce, sister-in-law, Anne Joyce, and her nephews Scott, Todd, and Adam. She will also be missed by her stepchildren, Lynn (John) Meakin, Rick (Diane) Bradshaw, Laura Reed, Paul Bullard, and Karen (Nat) Bullard. Lou is preceded in death by her daughter, Elizabeth Wilkinson, and her younger brother, Glenn Joyce.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 30, 2018 at 1 PM at the First Congregational Church of Bellingham, 2401 Cornwall Ave. Bellingham, WA.

Contributions in memory of Lou may be made to the Lighthouse Mission

Ministries at thelighthousemission.org, the Alzheimer Society of Washington at alzsociety.org, or the First Congregational Church of Bellingham at fccb.net.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Miss Lou was a beloved neighbor and friend. I am grateful to her for inviting me to try the labyrinth, a life changing event that led to my starting a labyrinth ministry and building over 50 Labyrinths, and introducing them to countless others. Lou’s encouragement is still creating daily opportunities for prayer and deep transformation in our community and beyond. Her presence next door was a gift and inspiration, and I always felt loved and welcomed, and she always showed such a genuine curiosity and love for my daughters. Her presence will be missed dearly.

Myra Ryneheart Corcoran - February 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I was saddened by your mother’s obituary in today’s Memphis Commercial Appeal, she was a fine lady and I enjoyed her company. I was however, shocked to see that Beth preceded her in death! We were very close friends who had not stayed in touch in the last few years. Please let me know how and when Beth died. I am very upset and sad about Beth. I always thought we would see each other again. I always knew Beth would be there for me anytime I needed her...but did not expect to hear this sad news.

Julia Jones - February 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Julia Jones, thank you for your kind words. Beth died a little over a year ago. We tried to find a number to reach you, but couldn’t get in touch. You meant a lot to Beth. If you can leave your number or a way to reach you, I will be in touch. -Jeanne (Beth’s youngest sister).

Jeanne Lewis - February 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM