

Janice Kay (Rasmussen) Fillman

Janice Kay Fillman, 69, returned to her place among the angels January 29, 2013 while residing at the Ray Hickey Hospice House in Vancouver, WA, following a 5-month battle with cancer. She was born in Portland, OR, on January 24, 1944, the second of two children to Glenn and Esther (Delanoy) Rasmussen. Janice is preceded in death by her parents and her older brother, Richard Lee Rasmussen, and former husband, Jack Edwin Fillman.

She grew up in the Kenton neighborhood of North Portland and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1962. After first going to the University of Portland, she attended the United Airlines Stewardess School in Chicago, IL. As a stewardess for the airline, she was stationed in Alexandria, VA, (Washington DC), from 1963 to 1965. In November, 1964, she was instrumental in putting out a bomb-related fire in the cargo hold of a plane flying from Atlanta to Washington, D.C., essentially saving the lives of everyone on board.

Janice returned to Portland and married Jack in 1965. They had two children. While residing in Vancouver, WA, she worked as an Administrative Assistant for The Columbian newspaper and was very active in community organizations such as the Clark County Genealogical Society (lifetime member), the YWCA and Clark County Democrats. In 1973, the family moved to the Highland area of La Center, WA. Janice continued her community involvement in La Center by volunteering at the school, becoming secretary to the principal of the elementary school. After six years with the school district, she took a part-time job with The Lewis River News as a free-lance writer, eventually becoming editor of the publication. In 1991, Janice went to work for the City of La Center, retiring in 2004 as City Clerk. She remained an active volunteer in the community by participating in groups such as the PTSA, La Center Booster Club, La Center Lions, La Center Wheel Club, La Center Scholarship Committee, La Center Grange and the La Center Museum Association (charter member); and after moving in 2002 to Woodland, WA, became active in the Woodland Chamber of Commerce, Woodland Historical Society (charter member) and the Hulda Klager Lilac Society. Janice was a member of Living Branch Lutheran Church in Woodland.

A talented artist, she worked in pen and ink and folk painting, and enjoyed paper crafting and making her own greeting cards. A gifted musician, she played the bass violin, piano and classical guitar. She greatly enjoyed playing piano and organ for her church. Other interests included writing, historical and genealogical research, and raising orphaned/abandoned calves. Favorite times were spent visiting casinos and spending time throughout the year at the Oregon coast with family.

Janice is survived by her children, Lisa Fillman-Black of Troutdale, OR, and Eric Fillman of Bothell, WA, and four grandchildren, Rachel, Jacob and Caroline Fillman, and Alisabeth "Libby" Black.

Janice was a selfless, caring individual that touched the lives of all who knew her. All are welcome to attend a gathering in celebration of her life which will be held at the Summit Grove Lodge, 30810 NE Timmen Road, Ridgefield, WA, on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, beginning at 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Ray Hickey Hospice House to assist in their ongoing mission of expert, compassionate care for community members dealing with terminal illness.

