

Phyllis Jane (Miller) Pierce

1941 ~ 2014



Phyllis was a woman of great intellect, insatiable curiosity and enormous capability. These talents filled her life with joy, achievements and love. The first of two children born to teachers Clifford and Edna May Miller, Phyllis grew up in Boise and was a member of the first graduating class of Borah High School. She met H. Irving Pierce at the College of Idaho and they married on August 25, 1962. They moved to Portland Oregon for Irv's medical studies, where she completed her college degree. They lived in Denver and Bellevue, WA before settling into life in Lakewood, WA as a military doctor's family. In 1971, they welcomed Eric Matthew and Leigh Kristin in 1975.

Seeking a beautiful yard for her family, and genus words being a bonus, Phyllis became a Master Gardener. She was invited to join the Tacoma Garden Club, where she was elected President, entered judging school and was asked to judge at national flower shows.

Beyond family and gardening, Phyllis loved words and animals. Her book clubs benefited from her insight. If she was involved, Phyllis wrote the newsletter. Her missives were full of timely information, perspective and wit. Her interests ran the gamut from

Jane Austen to exotic cacti. In between, she taught herself to code so she could design the first web site for her Garden Club. This design became a model for the National Committee. She could speak French and Spanish and often threw in a phrase of either to keep you on your toes. She evaluated and read prepublication books for publishers and would tell a friend about a juicy romance novel. Expert culinary skill aside, her favorite meal was a McDonald's cheeseburger. Stray cats and dogs gravitated to her door and stayed for years because she could not turn them away so her home was always filled with all varieties of pets. Phyllis' broad interests gained her a vast friendship circle of extraordinary people who enriched her life immensely.

Phyllis and Irv returned to Boise in 1999. Nothing brought more joy to Phyllis than her role as Grammy to Bennett, Grace, Nick, Lizzy and Will. Cats and dogs at her feet, she reveled in the time they shared. Her PEO sisters and the friends she made there were her mainstay in Boise.

Phyllis was predeceased by her husband, parents and brother. She is survived by her two children, their spouses, Julie Pierce and Bobby Gazaway, five grandchildren and two nephews. She is also survived by more friends than she could count, each of whom has a story of her wit, genuineness and fierce loyalty; many of whom edited this to assure all verbs agree.

The Memorial Service will be Wednesday, February 5 at 1:00pm at Hillcrest Country Club 4610 West Hillcrest Boise, ID 83705. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to: Cottey College c/o Jean Thomas 3677 West Quail Height Court Boise, ID 83703