

PHILLIPS, JOYCE K.

May 12, 1927 - May 18, 2019

Mother, friend, 73-year member of PEO

Joyce K. Phillips passed away peacefully on May 18, 2019 in Brevard, N.C., where she lived for the past two years.

Joyce was the child of Harry Floyd Kilpatrick and Orena Ohlsen Kilpatrick. She is survived by her older sister, Joan Sands, who lives in Aurora, Colorado.

Joyce was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, in 1927. She lived as a child in Hawk Springs, Wyoming, before the family moved 20 miles north to Torrington, Wyoming, the place she always called home. Joyce had fond memories of her father's drug store in Hawk Springs, of

her mother's extended family from David City, Nebraska, and of her wide circle of friends from Torrington.

After graduating from Torrington High School, Joyce attended the University of Wyoming. There she became a member of Alpha Phi sorority and met her husband, Paul C. Phillips, from Cheyenne.

In July of 1946, Joyce followed in the footsteps of her mother and aunts and joined P.E.O., a philanthropic organization dedicated to the advancement and education of women.

Early in their marriage, the couple lived in Denver where Joyce was a legal secretary. Paul then joined the U.S. Air Force, which took them both far from Wyoming. During their travels, the couple had four children, 3 boys and a girl.

Wherever they went, Joyce found family and friends through P.E.O. and other local women's organizations, including Adams-Arapahoe Woman's Club.

In 1965, the couple divorced and Joyce moved with the kids to Aurora, Colorado, to live near her sister, Joan and her family. Joyce again added to her extended family when she joined Frontier Airlines, where she was executive secretary for the VP of Maintenance until 1987. She moved to the Denver Art Museum Foundation and Hamilton Oil Company where she worked until the end of 1994.

But Joyce didn't do retirement like most people. She moved on to Century Elementary School in Aurora where she worked as a secretary until 1999. As she said, "When the children started calling me 'Grandma', it was time to quit." Quit, she did, but then returned one day a week for the next 6 years to help the students with their reading.

When Joyce did stop working, she made her health a goal. She went to the gym 5 days a week until she was nearly 90. She also enjoyed traveling to see her kids and grandkids around the country. She loved art and music and reading and enjoyed them as long as she could.

Joyce moved to Brevard, N.C., to live with her daughter, Robin Phillips and daughter-in-law, Susan Green in a home near a lake. During the final two years of her full life, the girl from Wyoming enjoyed new friends and beautiful views in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

In addition to Robin and Susan and her sister, Joan Sands of Aurora, Colo., Joyce is survived by her sons, Kelley, and his wife Diana, of Kauai, Hawaii; Patrick, and his wife Debra Stencel, of Washington, D.C.; Moshe and Linda Oberstein, of San Mateo, Calif.; a niece, Cindy Struck; a nephew, Steve Sands; 6 grandchildren, Andrew (Ester) Phillips of Kula, Maui; Sara Phillips of Seattle, Washington; Henry and Grace Phillips of Washington DC; and Avital and Zev Oberstein of San Mateo, Calif.; as well as 4 great grandchildren.

Ceremonies will take place in Aurora, Colo., and Torrington, Wyo., later this summer. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you consider a donation to the Denver Art Museum.