



Kathleen Labagh Vennemeyer

September 15, 1937 - November 8, 2018

Kathleen survived by her husband, John, her children, Carol (Ed) Vander Meulen of Livermore and Paul (Robin) Vennemeyer of Huntington Beach and grandchildren Drew and John as well as her siblings Julie Bellefleur of Belmont and Richard Labagh of Palo Alto. She will also be missed by her many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Kathy was born and raised in San Francisco; an Alumna of St Rose and Lone Mountain.

She moved with her family to Newark in 1971; Kathy embraced the community and became a member of Newark Planning commission from 1977-2000; She was also involved in numerous local and regional campaigns.

Kathy loved spending time with family and friends; especially adored doting on her grandchildren. Kathy touched the lives of all she met, never backed down from a challenge and held true to her beliefs but was open and respectful to the opinions of others. Kathy had a zest for life demonstrated by her joy of travel and service to her community. She had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, reading, world travel and animated discussions.

She was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Memorial Service will be held on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 10:30 AM, St Edward's Catholic Church, 5788 Thornton Ave, Newark.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Newark Library programs
<http://www.aclibrary.org/newark> or your favorite charity in her name.

Comments



“ The Lord has called yet another Newark icon.
Kathy Vennemeyer personified the type of person described in the Bible as a humble servant of God.

In Acts it is stated “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Kathy lived and practiced those words – “it is more blessed to give than to receive”. And through her service we received many gifts – so many that today – we are a better Newark because of her gifts.

Among her gifts were the many volunteer hours she spent in the community. Kathy took a real joy in being a part of the Newark scene and involved herself in many volunteer activities: She worked many local election campaigns. Helping elect people like: Sandy Sublett, Ernie Antonio, Dave Smith, Al Nagy – the list goes on. She delighted in sharing her knowledge and wisdom with others.

Mayor Smith appointed Kathy to the Planning Commission in the late seventy’s and she served until 2000. More than 20 years. Being prepared was her strong suit! She didn’t care if you were Republican or Democrat – she cared about what was your commitment to Newark. And when she offered her support, she wanted to make a difference in your campaign – I know she did for me. I think she had a good time participating in the political process and helping on campaigns – Making a difference as only she could.

John played an important part in campaigns as well, turning his patio into a sign-making shop during many campaigns. Carol and Paul had to wonder at times if their parents had lost their minds with all these crazy people visiting day and night.

The Prophet Micah said, “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Oh what a wonderful world if we all practiced those words as Kathy did.

Kathy Vennemeyer lived a life of fulfillment, committed to her family, community and to helping others. Thanks to Kathy’s family for sharing her with us these many years.

Kathy, may the Lord bless you, and grant you eternal peace.

Alan L. Nagy

Mayor

Alan L Nagy - November 19, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ God Bless her, John, Carol, and Paul. Kathy was a wonderful and smart woman. I had many a privileged time talking with her in Boulder Creek. Love, Chris Corbett

Chris - November 30, 2018 at 07:48 PM



“ I regret that I cannot be with you this morning to celebrate the life of an extraordinary person in Kathleen Labagh Vennemeyer.

I first met Kathy in 1984 when she was serving as Chairperson of the Newark Planning Commission. Our Homeowner's Association had several issues with the proposed Sobrato development across the street. While we did not get all of what we requested, I was impressed that she offered a fair hearing, considered our arguments, and provided a reasoned response to our issues.

Three years later I was appointed to the Planning Commission and served with her for thirteen years until she retired. Kathy was a mentor to me. She was always prepared. It was clear she always thoroughly reviewed the information contained in the thick packets we received, provided a thoughtful perspective, and always voted with the best interests of the community in mind. I didn't always agree with Kathy, but I deeply respected her reasoning.

I also worked with Kathy on several initiatives in the community. Kathy was passionate in these efforts, and tireless in her resolve when she thought the cause was just.

After her retirement, whenever a Commission vacancy occurred, I always encouraged her to put her oar back in the water. She would simply smile, thank me, and remind me that she had moved on.

Kathy has left an impressive legacy of positive accomplishment that few will see and all should be proud of. Kathy was part of a team that helped build a thriving community that today benefits from many of the decisions made during her tenure, and causes she championed.

So, thank you Kathy. You will be missed.

Glen Kramer

Glen Kramer - November 19, 2018 at 03:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kathleen Labagh Vennemeyer.



November 16, 2018 at 05:07 PM



“ 11/14/2018

Dear John and Family,

When we gathered this morning for The Book Talk Book Club we all shared fond memories of Kathy and how much we appreciated her contributions to our book

discussions, her love of travel and history and her love of her family, especially her grandsons. We are still in shock, but a part of her will remain with us always.

Sincerely,
Fran LaTorre

Fran LaTorre - November 14, 2018 at 06:14 PM