

## Obituary

### Kathleen Galloway James

Kathleen Galloway James began a new life when she peacefully passed away at her home on Whidbey Island, WA. The day was December 12, 2022, and she was 98 years old. She was held in the loving hands of Janet Holland - her primary caregiver -- son, and two grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all of Whidbey Island.

Kathleen was born June 9, 1924, in Columbia Tennessee, home of President James K. Polk and the Mule Days festival. She was an extraordinary hostess and Southern cook, showing her loving nature by seeing the good in all. And she was proud of her son, Lee Jr., a longtime resident of Whidbey Island, WA, and daughter, Janet, who lived most of her life in Huntsville, AL, where she was a music performer, teacher, cantor and director of music.

Mother and daughter joined Lee Jr. (Lindy S. Kortus) on Whidbey Island in 2016. Also living on Whidbey are Lee's two sons, Michael and David, and two grandchildren, Emily and Eli. Janet's daughter, Vikkie (Mike Low) lives on Edisto Island, SC. Their children are Chapin and Conner who are studying and working west of the Mississippi.

Looming large in Columbia, TN, for the Galloway family, was Columbia Military Academy (CMA), located near their home. She and her two sisters were courted by young cadets at CMA. The household was known by cadets as "Mama Gal's. it was a home away from home. Kathleen first spotted her husband-to-be, Lee Boyer James, at age 14 at a CMA dance. He asked if she would write to him at West Point. When he kissed her on the forehead, he thought she might slap his face. But she knew that they would marry. At age 18, he gave her a ring.

Kathleen and Lee were married at West Point as new year 1943 rang in. It was war time; the ceremony was conducted in-mass, 30 minutes apart for each betrothed cadet. The Cadets all used the same flowers. Her Tennessee Uncle Jimmy represented the family as he was not far away, serving in Washington D.C. as a member of Congress.

As an Army wife, Kathleen moved 6 times, mostly within the southern part of the U.S. She set up home in three interesting communities related to our country's space race: Fort Bliss (White Sands Proving Ground), Cape Canaveral, and the Pentagon. In addition, toward the end of her husband's Army career, they were stationed at the "Rocket City," Huntsville, AL on a long assignment, which brought them finally to military retirement.

The family remained in Huntsville throughout her husband's second career, with NASA. In full retirement, they traveled internationally and across the western U.S. on trips that included seeing their son in Washington state.

Kathleen lived by two constants: love of family and love of friends and church. She lived In many places, but always stayed in touch and listened to every detail in people's lives – and remembered them too! In her later retirement years, the Redstone Village in Huntsville provided an opportunity, for 20 years, to visit and assist friends and take part in area clubs and organizations. Her closest friend there was 110 years old. Area clubs and organizations included the Weeden House, First Presbyterian Church, Burritt Museum, Garden Club, the Antique Club.

After moving to Whidbey Island, WA with her daughter, Kathleen participated in the Bible Study Club for 7 years. She enjoyed her church, St. Augustine in the Woods, and senior centers where Janet sang.

Memorials may be made to St. Augustine-in-the-Woods, PO Box 11, Freeland, WA 98249. Grateful thanks for assistance are offered to the caring and professionalism of Hospice, Whidbey Island.