



Kathleen Jean Bennett

February 26, 1941 - December 3, 2016

On December 3, 2016, our treasured mother, Nana, wife, sister and friend, Kathleen Jean Bennett, age 75, unexpectedly passed away in Medford, Oregon, after complications from surgery to repair a broken leg.

Kathleen was one of five children born in Brooklyn, New York, to John and Margaret Callahan on February 26, 1941. She attended Catholic schools in Brooklyn and graduated from Saint Brennen High School in 1960. Kathleen always shared fond memories of time spent at the family cabin in upstate New York as a child. Following high school, Kathleen worked in advertising and finances on Madison Avenue in New York City. On April 27, 1963, Kathleen married Gerard MacLachlan, and together, they had two daughters, MaryAnne MacLachlan and Susan (MacLachlan) Cervelli. Following the passing of Gerard in October of 1976, Kathleen packed up her daughters for a Christmas trip to Northern California to visit her favorite little brother, James (Jim) Callahan. Kathleen fell in love with the Scott Valley area, and four months later, in April of 1977, moved herself and her daughters across the United States to Etna, California, to start a new life; a move she never regretted. In Scott Valley, she instantly made lifelong friends and met her future husband, Richard (Rick) Bennett, in the summer of 1980. They were married on January 2, 1984, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Jones, California.

During the early 1980's, Kathleen became co-owner of the Fort Club

Restaurant and Bar. Many wild stories (most of them true!) and memories were made during this business venture. After the sale of the Fort Club, Kathleen spent two years driving school bus for Etna High School before taking a job at the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher in 1986. She was recognized as Siskiyou County Support Person of the Year in 1995. Kathleen was proud of and loved her job, and was promoted to Dispatch Manager, a position she held until her retirement from the Sheriff's Department in 2005.

Over the years, Kathleen served on the Etna Cemetery Board, was a 4-H leader and a member of the Catholic churches in Etna and Fort Jones, and represented the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department statewide on telecommunication committees and organizations. She was a heck of a shot with a shotgun, and always outshot her husband at skeet. Following her retirement, Kathleen settled into enjoying hobbies including quilting, quilting groups and retreats, and reading. Her favorite pastime was spending time with her grandchildren, who were the sparkle in her eye and the light of her life. Kathleen and Rick moved from Etna to Lake Shastina in December of 2013 to be closer to her grandchildren, daughter Susan and her favorite son-in-law, Monty Cervelli. She loved her new home and took great joy in being able to see her family each day and attend sporting, school and 4-H events for the grandkids.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, John and Margaret Callahan, her sister, Irene Hetterich, and her brother, Jack Callahan. Kathleen will be forever missed by her husband and partner of nearly 37 years, Richard Bennett; her oldest sister, Margaret (Peggy) Hetterich; her youngest brother and sister-in-law, James (Jim) and Ann Marie Callahan; her daughter, MaryAnne MacLachlan; her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Monty Cervelli; her four cherished grandchildren, Kathleen (Katie) Anne Rogers, and Kelcie, Madysson and Colton Cervelli; and her best friend of 40 years, Kathy

Durett, of Etna. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and extended family who reside in the New York area. Kathleen, best known as “Nana,” will be forever missed and her memory treasured.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service to be held at Girdner Funeral Chapel in Yreka, California, on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Following the service, all are invited to a gathering at the home of Susan and Monty Cervelli in Lake Shastina, California. Interment will occur at Evergreen Cemetery at a later date. Contributions in Kathleen’s memory may be made to the Rescue Ranch, 2216 East Oberlin Road, Yreka, California 96097.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 20. 1:00 PM (PT)

Girdner Funeral Chapel
202 S. Oregon St.
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-3434
<https://www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall

SS

“ So sad to hear of Kathleen's passing. I worked with her at the SO in the 90's and she was one of my most favorite people ever!! Loved her sense of humor and New Yaak accent (my dad is from N.Y.). She was certainly one of a kind, dearly loved and respected by all who knew her. She will be sorely missed.

Susan Shaw - December 16, 2016 at 01:37 PM

RB

“ Susan and Monty and Family we are so sorry for your loss Kathleen was on of a kind, she protected me on more than one occasion when she was dispatching and I did consider her a friend. We used to talk about her love of Akita's, since we had one, I know she also loved her Rot's. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend the memorial to honor your mother but I will be having surgery on my knee that day. I want you to know your mother was a great lady and will be missed. Our prayers are with you.
Randy and Brenda Bigler

Randy Bigler - December 16, 2016 at 01:30 PM



Matt
Rokes

“ So sorry to hear of Kathleen's passing. She was a wonderful person with a big heart. She was like our den mother. She was the glue that held dispatch and the Sheriff's Dept together. She was a leader, a mentor and friend. I have many fond memories of working with her. You knew exactly how she felt about anyone and anything. That New York attitude was legendary. She told you straight and from the heart.

I will never forget her teaching me how to make tomato sandwiches when I brought her fresh tomatoes from my garden. She also guided me through many difficult situations as a young Deputy. She treated us all like family. Her family was a great source of pride for Kathleen. She will always have a special place in my heart. May she rest in peace and my most heartfelt condolences to her wonderful family.

Matt Rokes - December 16, 2016 at 01:07 PM

GP

“ Kathleen was one-of-a-kind. A New Yorker's accent would suddenly erupt when things got hectic. She taught a lot of new deputies and dispatchers that the life-line of radio communications is a serious and integral part of law enforcement - leading to newly trained deputies being assigned for one week to the dispatch center during training to learn the complexities of using their future life-line effectively. And heaven help the Newbie who thought this training wasn't needed - they would need a break after her "lecture" which included several N.Y. phrases casting doubt on their heritage ! And then they'd be ready to learn about the real world.

She always had pictures of her extended family at work; and would not hesitate to tell us of her family's latest accomplishments. She fought to establish and maintain a professional and family place at work....which by now should be a tradition.

We'll miss your lively discussions, humorous outlook, and dedication to the public.

Gary Peery, Lt. (retired)

P.S. Please don't tell God how to run Heaven !

(Dave & Family: Sorry we can't attend her services, as we'll be gone from the area.).

Gary Peery - December 16, 2016 at 12:42 PM

GP

That's (Rick & Family:) sorry. gp

Gary Peery - December 16, 2016 at 05:41 PM

DB

“ *I was always comfortable when Kathleen was dispatching . You could rest assured that you had all the information of what was going on before you got to the location , she would have help rolling until you called it off .*

Dave Bradford - December 15, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kathleen Jean Bennett.*



December 14, 2016 at 10:00 PM