



Sylvia Ann O'Connor

January 9, 1941 - March 25, 2020

Longtime Yreka resident Sylvia Ann O'Connor passed away on March 25, 2020 into the loving arms of our Lord. She passed after a 1 ½ year courageous battle with lung cancer. She died at home surrounded by family. She was 79 years old.

Sylvia was born on January 9, 1941 at Providence Hospital in Oakland to Ernest and Margaret Silva. She grew up in Hayward and attended catholic school at All Saints. She graduated high school at Bishop O'Dowd in 1958.

Sylvia married the love of her life, Robert Leon O'Connor on April 23, 1960. They were married for 33 years until his passing in 1993. They were true partners in life showing love and respect for one another.

Sylvia met Gary Schmidt in 1994 and they were long term companions for 20+ years until his passing in 2016.

Sylvia worked many trades, including managing convalescent homes, billing in medical doctor's offices and co-owner of O'Connor Upholstery and Drapery.

Sylvia was best known for being a talented seamstress and her charity work. She provided knitted lap blankets through warm up Siskiyou County, handmade rosaries which were distributed in the mission field, crafting for a

cause, knitted knockers, pillowcases for kids in hospitals, dresses for girls in Africa, days for girls, personal care packages for the homeless, 100+ soap bags and pouches for Operation Christmas Child boxes for several years and many, many hats that were distributed at Christmas in the streets through Tailgaters. She also organized and ran the community Christmas dinner at the Grange for two years. If there was a need, Sylvia tried her best to accomplish and embellish her way through it as only she could do! She loved giving back.

Sylvia was a devoted member of the Yreka United Methodist Church. She loved her church family, and volunteered and ran many activities throughout the years. If something needed to be organized and done, she was the woman to make it happen.

Sylvia will be dearly missed by her family. She was our cornerstone. Sylvia is survived by her children, Bob O'Connor (fiance' Kathy) and Chris Bowers (Rick). She is also survived by her grandchildren, Michael, Sean and Caitlyn O'Connor, Tanya English (Josh) and Kristin Langford (Andy), and great grandchildren Emma and Cole English. Sylvia was preceded in death by her husband Robert O'Connor and long term companion Gary Schmidt.

Services will be held at a later date when it is safe to congregate. Memorial contributions may be made to Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097 or the American Lung Association.

Tribute Wall

EB

“ For many years I visited the west coast to visit many kinfolk from San Francisco to Seattle and to visit Gary and Sylvia. My last cousin on the coast died four years ago, but I still drove out to visit Sylvia and to enjoy her gracious hospitality, coffee and conversation, remembering my visits with Gary, Sylvia and enjoying their pets, Oliver and Sasha and a couple of cats. On my last trip out from St. Paul, MN, Sylvia told me of her cancer; difficult for me to believe as she looked well and seemed not to be concerned at all. I now believe that she was relying on her faith, her expectation of salvation and an eternal life of peace and happiness.

Last October I returned home somehow expecting her to beat the cancer and to visit her again this fall. After 70 or so trips to the coast I didn't expect my visit with Sylvia to be my last visit with her and my last trip to the west coast. Thank you and blessings, Sylvia!

Eugene Boeckman

Eugene Boeckman - April 14, 2020 at 02:00 PM

KH

“ I always so enjoyed going up to Dad and Sylvia's house. Sylvia and I would visit over coffee while Dad was sleeping, and we enjoyed a glass of wine together in the evening too. Sylvia took such good care of my Dad, and I will be eternally grateful because we were able to enjoy many years with my Dad we may not have had if it weren't for her. She also cared for him as his health declined. I know this was challenging at times. She was so patient and helpful to him and also to my Sister and I. Finally, I will remember Sylvia as a Christian I admire and a genuine witness for Christ. I also extend my love and condolences to all of your family, who always treated my Dad with love and kindness. I know he loved you all and was grateful to be a part of your lives.

Kelly Hawk - April 02, 2020 at 10:45 AM

TT

“ My father and Sylvia were companions for 20+ years and I will always remember her as the person who extended my dad's life. God bless you Sylvia.

Terri Trevarthen - April 01, 2020 at 09:07 PM

JS

“ I always remember Sylvia Ann (John always called her that) as a loving & giving person. I think her family was John's favorite on his Mom's side. Her Mom Aunt Maggie was my favorite, and she was a devoted daughter to her. She raised two great kids, John loved fishing with Bobby & Christine was my girls favorite babysitter! I'm sure she is so happy to be with her parents, Bob & the rest of the family that passed before her. I know Aunt Edna will be happy to see.
You all have another angel to look over you.
Rest In Peace Sylvia Ann.
John Sousa & family

Jane Sousa - April 01, 2020 at 08:26 PM

DW

Sylvia was such a great person and an inspiration to so many. Our church family is going to miss her so much.

Donna White

Donna White - April 08, 2020 at 04:25 PM

HE

I have such wonderful memories of Sylvia I am shocked and saddened to hear of her passing.

Sylvia and her lovely husband Bob took Omar and myself as family when we lived in Hayward and we worked together at "Cherry's Upholstery" in Union City.

I remember Aunt Edna and Uncle Abe and their lovely dog Buddy. So many happy memories although I have not seen Sylvia since I visited her in 2009 I have held her in my heart and always will.

Love to you all

Bob, Chris and families

Heather from Australia

Heather - August 12, 2020 at 06:38 AM