

Obituary

Sandra Rossi, 66

Sandra "Sandy" Rossi of Pingree left our world on Sunday, April 17, 2011 from causes related to age and chronic illness. She was 66. Sandra Sue Rodgers was born in Blackfoot April 23rd, 1944, the second daughter and child of Lawrence "Larry" Rodgers and Louise (Clarke) Rodgers. With her older sister Sharon, Sandy spent several years under the loving care of their maternal grandmother, Lydia (RaDue) LaFever and step-grandfather, Bill LaFever and in the company of many aunts, uncles, and cousins on the family farm at the edge of Blackfoot.



Sandy attended Blackfoot High School and in the early summer of 1961 she married Marion Olindo Rossi of Pingree, Idaho. After starting their family here (Marion Jr. and Angela Marie) they spent two years in Illinois while Marion finished graduate school; the family moved to the Willamette Valley in Oregon in the fall of 1965. Sandy and Marion lived and worked there, raising their four children (having added Kathryn Rachel and Thomas Dominic) and making their life together, for the next thirty-six years. Marion taught at what is now Western Oregon University and was the mayor of the city of Independence for 16 years. After their retirements and in 2001, Sandy and Marion moved back to Pingree, Idaho.

Sandy loved being a wife, mother, and grandmother. She also had an exceptional career in business. Beginning as a receptionist first for Boise Cascade and then later for Siletz Trucking, she worked her way to the top tier of management. She retired from Siletz, a multi-million dollar log hauling company with dozens of employees, having served for many years as its Chief Financial Administrator. As such Sandy was the primary architect of the plan that allowed Siletz employees over time to purchase the company. Today, Siletz Trucking is entirely employee owned and operated.

As gifted as she was in business matters Sandy was always first and foremost devoted to her family. She enjoyed doing for everyone but most especially her children and grandchildren. And for their many friends who came to think of Sandy as their mother as well. She and Marion enjoyed many years together with friends and family, playing cards, visiting, and helping others. In the last few years, even as chronic health issues limited her chances for getting out, Sandy continued to give generously to those less fortunate, knitting and crocheting hundreds of hats, scarves, and slippers for the homeless. Sandy also enjoyed sewing, crafts, trivia, reading, and puzzles, especially word games of all kinds. She was rarely, if ever, beaten in Scrabble.

Sandy was preceded in death by her grandparents and parents, as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is survived by her husband of forty-nine years, Marion, of Pingree, ID; her sister Sharon (Jim) of Shelley, ID; her stepmother Lela Rodgers of Blackfoot, ID; her mother-in-law Annzi of Pingree, ID; her children: Marion Jr. (Kim) of Corvallis, OR; Angela (Dean) of Salem, OR; Kathryn (Randy) of Dallas, OR; and Thomas, of Salem, OR; and six children and three great-grandchildren.

The family will meet with visitors beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2011 at St. John's Mission in Pingree, ID. A funeral Mass will begin at 2:00 p.m. under the direction of Hawker Funeral Home, with a short graveside service immediately following at Thomas-Riverside Cemetery. Food and refreshments will be shared in celebration of her life starting at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Special Olympics and/or St. John's Mission. Condolences may be sent to the family at condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.