

Nilsen, Marjorie A.

Marjorie Ann Richards Nilsen, 65, died March 20, 2005, of a pulmonary embolism following knee replacement surgery. Marjorie Ann Richards was born on her family's farm in Redmond on June 15, 1939. She and her siblings (Bob and Don Richards and Mary Lou Lively) all graduated from Harbor Beach High School. Margie put herself through Graceland College waiting tables at the Harbor Beach Resort. Graceland is where Marge met Tore Nilsen in Lamoni, Iowa in 1958. Marge and Tore were married in Harbor Beach on August 20, 1960. In 1973, after a year of living in Norway, Marge and Tore brought their young family back to Harbor Beach to raise their kids in a small town, close to family. Indeed, all of Marge and Tore's children (Erik, Karen, and Linda) graduated from Harbor Beach High School as their mother had. Marge had a full life. She owned and operated The Crooked Tree Nursery School. She worked for the Head Start Program for several years, and she ended her career in Harbor Beach working with the school district as a home-school consultant — a job she loved. While she was working and raising her family, Marge was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, member of the Harbor Beach Board of Education, active member and clergy in her church, and a person who contributed to her community in many ways. In 1994, Marge attained one of her life goals and received her master's degree in religion from Park University in Kansas City, Missouri. By 1996, most of Marge's children (and all of her grandchildren) lived in Portland, Oregon. She and Tore could no longer resist the call to head west to be closer to their family. It didn't take Marge long to build community yet again in Oregon. She was very active with her church community and found being "in the big city" enjoyable in many ways, especially once she figured out how to get where she wanted without going on the freeways and bridges. Most importantly, she was able to share in field trips, piano recitals, plays, birthdays, tea parties, and just ordinary days with her grandchildren. Her entire immediate family and many others will be returning to Harbor Beach for a memorial service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 10, 2005, in the Harbor Beach High School cafetorium. Following the service will be a reception at Carl Roggenbuck's home, north of Harbor Beach. Marge's family is in the process of creating a foundation in her honor, dedicated to peace and justice with an emphasis on youth. Marge's family respectfully requests donations to the Mrs. Marge Foundation. More information can be found at www.mrsmargefoundation.com.