



Judith Helen Jacobson

February 26, 1939 - June 20, 2019

Mrs. Judith Helen Jacobson passed away Thursday afternoon in St. James Healthcare surrounded by her loving family following a long and difficult medical event requiring multiple surgeries. The care she received at St. James Healthcare was extraordinarily competent and compassionate.

Judy was born Sunday, February 26, 1939 in South Bend, Indiana to Robert and Leah (Alexander) Haxton. She was raised and educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

She married Dr. John R. Jacobson in Milwaukee on November 30, 1963 and together they have made their home in Butte since 1973. Judy and John celebrated 55 years of marriage on Nov. 30, 2018.

Judy was a longtime and active member of Gold Hill Lutheran Church, and served on the church council for several years. Raised in the city, she bravely learned to love outdoor activities after her marriage, including skiing, hunting, fishing, rafting on the Big Hole, and camping in a tent with her family. She was on the first women's trap shooting team in Butte.

Judy was skilled at knitting, sewing, and needle point and she put all of that to great use, along with her creativity, and was a costume maker extraordinaire for her kids and their friends as they were growing up. She was a Girl Scout

Leader, taking her troop on adventurous trips where many, many badges were earned.

Judy spent several years working with Meg Sharp at Sharp Expressions, helping newlyweds with their wedding registries, customers select wonderful gifts and perusing cookbook books for outstanding recipes, which her family benefited from. From lutefisk and venison to krumkake and fudge, Judy could make anything taste great, or at least good.

In 1980, Judy was appointed to the Montana State Senate and was the first female state senator from Butte. She was re-elected in 1982 and served in the Senate until 1996.

She was a skilled political leader and successfully worked to pass legislation that improved life for all Montanans, including a law requiring infants and children to be safely restrained in car seats in vehicles. Her granddaughters now tell their children “Don’t blame me, this is the law because of Grandma Judy,” if they protest being buckled up.

Judy earned a bachelor’s degree in Society and Technology from Montana Tech, and her husband, children, mother and grandchildren proudly watched her walk across the stage to accept that degree in 1995, graduating as Salutatorian of her class and Valedictorian of her section.

Judy was elected Chief Executive of Butte-Silver Bow in 2000 and served one term, deciding to leave public service to spend more time with her grandchildren and traveling with John.

Her family is grateful for the generous stories so many have shared about working with Judy and their friendships with her, some we have heard before and many that are new to us. Thank you.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. John R. Jacobson of Butte, daughters and sons-in-law, Wendy and Skip Dobbs of Edwardsville, Kansas, Jo Dee and Mark Black of Great Falls, grandchildren: Jacob and Mason Dobbs of Edwardsville, Kansas, Amber and Kaleigh Bixler of Omaha, Nebraska, Jennifer and Mikey Burrall of Bellingham, Washington, Megan and Matt Harthun of West Valley, Utah and Abbie and Doug Peters of Columbus, Montana. Also surviving are her great-grandchildren: Kayson Ray and Lillian Grace Harthun, Mae Anne Burrall, Weston Eric Peters and Gracie Scarlett Leigh Bixler, her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Lee and Judy Jacobson of Tucson, Arizona and Dan and Nancy Jamiolkowski of Whitehall, Montana as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Eric Lee Jacobson, sister, Leah Rae Jamiolkowski and her parents-in-law, Ray and Marion Jacobson.

The family suggests that memorials in Judy's name be made to Big Brother Big Sister of Butte, or the organization of the donor's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Gold Hill Lutheran Church
934 Placer Street
Butte, MT 59701

Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (MT)

Gold Hill Lutheran Church
934 Placer Street
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

DD

“ *Hi, Dr Jacobsen*

*I would be at the services in honor to you but I now live in Alaska.
I knew of Judi but did not know her. You, however, I knew, admired
and respected as a physician and hopefully a friend.*

I'm sorry for your loss

*I'll Always remember all our professional years and pleasant
memories.*

Remain strong. Miss you. Donna Davis

Donna Davis - June 27, 2019 at 08:52 PM