

# Judith "Judy" Ward

1939 - 2024



## Judith Ward Obituary

Judith (Judy) Ward  
August 10, 1939 – December 16, 2024

Judith (Judy) Ward passed away at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital in Grass Valley, CA on December 16, 2024, at the age of 85. She died peacefully in her sleep after complications from pneumonia and Parkinson's Disease. Her husband Pat was constantly at her side in the hospital and their three children, grandchildren, relatives, and close friends were able to visit and

spend time with her before she passed.

Judy was born on August 10, 1939, in Manchester, Connecticut to Ruth and Raymond Brunell. She was their only child. The family moved to the Philadelphia, PA area in the early 1950's and in 1955 moved to Levittown, PA.

She met her future husband, Patrick Ward, there in High School, 11th grade. They graduated in 1957 and were married after Pat was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and USAF Navigator in 1959 and Judy graduated from Penn State University in 1962.

After Air Force assignments in Bermuda, Columbus, OH, Okinawa, Omaha, NE, Grand Forks, ND, Little Rock, AR, and Omaha again, Pat retired from the Air Force in 1988, and they moved to Nevada City near family and friends.

In addition to Judy's adventures, challenges, and experiences as an Air Force Wife, she was able to achieve many personal accomplishments. She taught pre-school in Okinawa and Omaha and completed a degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of North Dakota in 1979. She also entered Federal Service employment in Omaha in 1986 and after retiring to Nevada City transferred to the USGS Water Resource Division in Sacramento before retiring in 1997.

Judy's activities after retirement were varied and reflected her wide range of interests and abilities including volunteering for many years with the Nevada County Friends of the Library and the Nevada City Inner Wheel Club (Rotary).

She also travelled extensively with Pat in their RV and had many memorable outdoor experiences with friends and family staying active as long as she could.

Judy was also an accomplished seamstress and quilter, loved art and music, especially classical, jazz, and early rock-and-roll. She additionally sang in several church choirs in several of their Air Force assignments.

She was smart, kind, knew a lot about many things, had a great memory, and a subtle sense of humor. Most important, however, was her love of family,

watching her children and grandchildren all grow into responsible adults. It was the most important thing in her life. Even after her health began to fail, she made every effort to recognize and participate in their activities as she could.

She will be warmly remembered and missed by everyone who knew her.

Judy is survived by her husband of 62 years, Patrick Ward, their three children, Kevin, Karin, and Brian, and seven grandchildren: Phinneus, Adrienne, Annalise, Nicholas, Meagan, Cole, and Isabelle.

She was preceded in death by her father Raymond Brunell, her mother Ruth Brunell and her in-laws Joseph and Florence Ward.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 10:30 am at Saint Canice Catholic Church, 317 Washington St, Nevada City, CA with a reception following at the Saint Canice Center at 236 Reward Street, Nevada City, CA.