



Amerilis Ellen Foster

April 25, 1931 - July 11, 2023

Amerilis Ellen Retting was born on April 25, 1931 to Otto and Velmer(Hahn) Rettig in Three Forks, MT. She was the youngest of 3 children. She had an older sister, Blanche Johnson, and brother, William (Bill) Rettig. She lived in various places around Montana, until she landed in Helena where she was hired at Vocational Rehabilitation as a receptionist/typist. She met her husband, Melvin Foster, at a church convention. After dating for a bit, they were married on June 30, 1956 in Helena, Montana. They had four children together: William, David, Kevin and Kimberly. The family moved to Alaska in December of 1974. Her husband, Melvin, moved first, and Amerilis followed behind with their children, pets, and all of their belongings. They managed to catch the last ferry of the season, in Seattle, WA, going to Skagway, AK. After living in Skagway for nine months as the co-manager of the Klondike hotel, she moved to Anchorage, AK. Here, she briefly worked for Sears, before transitioning to work in the government sector, where she was hired by the Army Corps of Engineers to be the supervisor for the typing pool. She then moved to Kodiak, where her husband had transferred with his job, and worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service as an Administrative Assistant. She moved to Anchorage, Alaska in 1981, and in 1983 started working for the Department of the Interior in the National Geological survey as an administrative assistant. During that time, her husband Melvin passed away on December 3, 1985 in Palmer, Alaska. They were married for 29 years. She ended her career working for the Department of Energy, at the Eklutna Power

Project as an administrative assistant. She was awarded numerous awards for her work. She stayed in Palmer, Alaska until she moved to Vancouver, Washington in 2004. She resided there until her death on July 11th, 2023, surrounded by family. She is preceded in death by her mother, father, brother, sister and husband. She is survived by her 4 children: her son, Bill Foster and wife Laurie of Vancouver, WA; her son, David Foster of Portland, OR; her son, Kevin Foster and wife Charlene of Alaska; and her daughter, Kim Hooser and husband Ken of Gresham, OR; along with 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Tribute Wall



“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Amerilis Ellen Foster - July 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM