



Barbara Maxine Donohoe

April 15, 1938 - October 12, 2020

Barbara Maxine McPherson Donohoe passed away Monday Oct 12, 2020 in Depoe Bay, Oregon at the age of 82. She was born in San Francisco, CA and grew up mostly in the Los Angeles area. Her parents were Elinore Jane Chamberlin Averill and Maxwell Bingham McPherson. Following her parents' divorce, her mother remarried and had twins. Her father remarried and following a daughter, also had twins. As a child Barbara lived in CA often spending summers with her father's family in CA & WA. Barbara attended Washington State University in Pullman graduating in Political Science, a field that interested her all of her life as evidenced by her many years as a volunteer for the elections office where she helped at the polls and counted ballots. She also assisted with various democratic political candidates.

The first major job in her career path was with the IRS in Seattle. She met her future husband Dennis John Donohoe during a tax audit that she was conducting with him. He didn't get his deductions but he did get the girl, a cute curly red-head with freckles and a figure as well as a smart, progressive young woman. He was the only man she ever married, although she married him twice. Together they had three children in the early 60's namely Catherine Ann, Michael Thomas, and Susan Jane. She was a grandmother and great-grandmother to many progeny.

Barbara purchased a home in the downtown area of Vancouver, Washington

that her grandparents had built in 1919 in the historic Hough neighborhood. She lived in the Craftsman style home approximately from 1966-2016, 50 years. During this time she worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Portland, Oregon, the Dept. of Energy during the oil and gas shortages of the early 70's, and later doing accounting, bookkeeping and taxes for companies such as H&R Block, Columbia Bookkeeping, the Sheriff's Dept., as well as for private individuals.

A lifelong fan of the public library, Barbara enjoyed reading and learning. Her favorite genre was mysteries and she could be described as a voracious reader as she always had a novel at her side. She loved learning, and languages was one of her favorite subjects. As a middle-aged student at Clark College she built on her childhood studies in Latin, taking courses in Spanish, German, French, Japanese, and Russian.

Barbara enjoyed traveling and often took trips to visit family or went on vacations with family members, demonstrating an adventurous spirit. She loved playing board games or cards.

She always liked a challenge and enjoyed trivia games, watching Jeopardy, crosswords and logic puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, and particularly enjoyed family history and building on her mothers' genealogy work. Privately she challenged herself even in her last years with reading and memorizing the Almanac, countries and their capitals, details about every every US president, collective group names of birds, and studying the current voter's pamphlet.

Barbara was curious about the world around her, had an attitude of 'make the best of it', and did it all with a wry sense of humor. Barbara Donohoe is buried next to her husband at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Vancouver, Washington.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 06:32 PM

CH

“ One time I took mom to the Helga Klager Lilac Gardens <https://lilacgardens.com/> for her birthday and a butterfly landed on the flowers and she was so amazed at what a beautiful spring garden they have, the butterfly, the historic home, visiting with the volunteers, lunch together, and we both had a wonderful day.

Catherine Hingson - December 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Mom was always up for whatever adventure the family was doing, she loved being included. On this day it was a trip to the Newport Aquarium where she got her face painted.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Mom always liked everything British. We traveled to British Columbia several times together, she loved the English influence there. I would have loved to take her to England, instead I am satisfied that we got to watch *Downton Abbey*, *The Crown*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Upstairs Downstairs*, and every British type movie we could get our hands on; she thoroughly enjoyed them all. She loved reading books about the Royals and she was always following what was happening with the Queen. The only thing she didn't like was English food.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *If there was a birthday to celebrate, including her own, she was usually with me and my family. She always tried to help make it special.*

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Fall 2016 Bryce, Cathy, Nathan, Yesi, Phil, Barbara, Lyla, Gregory Ty, Jairo*

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Barbara loved everything British. We visited British Columbia together several times and she liked the English influence there. We both wished that we could travel to England together. We watched many British films including all of Downton Abbey, The Crown, Upstairs Downstairs, and every Bronte book made into a movie. We shared a love for the beautiful table settings with china, crystal, and linens. She liked everything except British food!*

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Barbara Maxine Donohoe*

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ *Barbara and Cathy on her 80th birthday.*

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“ *Catherine Hingson lit a candle in memory of Barbara Maxine Donohoe*



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Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ *Whenever you asked mom to take the picture she would cut off the heads of the people.*

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Whenever Mom was taking a picture she would cut off people's heads!

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ This was the house on 23rd St. Barbara lived in it approximately 50 years- about 1967-2017

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ This was Thanksgiving 2014 and Arline's birthday. She loved her sister. Barbara enjoyed visiting her.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ She was a breast cancer survivor and a stroke survivor. She enjoyed going to Stroke Survivor support group meetings.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ She loved reading books and learning.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Queen for her birthday 2013. Suzi and I took her to lunch, Columbia river in background.

Catherine Hingson - December 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM