

SANDRA FARHA OBITUARY

September 16, 1936 - May 25, 2015

Sandra Ludy Farha passed away at 10:30am on Monday, the 25th of May at her home in Calistoga, California. Sandra is survived by her immediate family: life partner, Albert; her daughters, Kimberley, Katherine, and Kelly; her grandchildren, Scott, Naomi, Alicia, Amanda, and Christina; and her great-grandson, Bentley.

Sandra was born in Larned, Kansas on September 16, 1936. She met her spouse, Albert Farha, in high school and they married on October 17, 1955, in Albuquerque, NM, on their way to California.

Sandra became an activist for Women's Rights in the early 1970's, while her three daughters were in high school in Woodland Hills, CA. An early feminist, she strongly supported her daughters in breaking gender barriers at their school, encouraging them to participate in sports and other activities that were considered to be "for the boys."

The male-dominated politics within the Woodland Hills Episcopal Church provided Sandra with another opportunity to break a glass ceiling. She became the first female on the church board. Her daughters became the first female acolytes in the church. She then worked with a number of the women (and a few good men) for the ordination of one of the first female priests in the Episcopal church.

In the 1980's, Sandra took her intense passion for pay and job equity, reproductive rights, and political power for women to the next level. Working her way through the system, Sandra became California State Coordinator for The National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1983. After her involvement with NOW, she continued in her quest for equality for women through her involvement in the State and National political processes. She supported women and minorities to get elected in offices, such as Chief Justice Rose Bird, Mayor Tom Bradley's run for CA Governer, Gloria Molena's various elected positions, Geraldine Ferrarro's candidacy for Vice President of the United States, and she initiated that the California State legislation give special recognition to Sally Ride as the first female astronaut in Space.

Sandra's achievements and history of activism will be archived in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

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