

Short Bios from the Fall 2024 Remembrance Ceremony

Tom Wilcox

Tom Wilcox was born 1938 in Illinois and grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He served in the Army for 5 years during the Vietnam War and later got a MS in mechanical engineering at the University of Arkansas. He owned a vending machine and industrial cafeteria business until he and his wife Nancy retired to the Oregon coast. There he was active in the Gearhart Fire Department for 15 years, and after moving to Rose Villa he headed the wood shop for 5 years.

Francis “Fran” Hunter

Fran Hunter, a RV resident since 1999 (25 years!) was born in 1934 and grew up in Idaho where her family continues to own a ranch. She graduated from the College of Idaho and was an elementary school teacher. She played the dulcimer at talent shows and was best known by many of us for her years in the Rose Villa chimes class concerts.

Berta Richards

Berta Richards was born in WV in 1928 and grew up in Arizona. While living in Flagstaff she became a lifelong hiker and camper ,first in the Grand Canyon area, and later in the Columbia Gorge. She graduated from Northern Arizona University, became a teacher, and taught locally at Jennings Lodge elementary.

Donna Beal

Donna Beal was born in Idaho in 1924 , became a bookkeeper for Salem companies while her husband was a Willamette University foreign languages professor .She died at the age of 100, after having lived at RV her last 36 years. She came here in 1988 with her husband as his brother already lived here and became the person who lived the longest at Rose Villa.

Susan Shawn:

Susan Shawn was born in Oberlin, Ohio in 1944. She moved on her own to NYC where she graduated from CCNY and came to Portland in 1968. She worked for the City of Portland for 10 years and was a licensed massage therapist for over 20 years. She and her husband Eric lived in Oak Grove area for over 30 years before they moved to RV. She loved hiking, her dogs, Tibetan Buddhism, and her Catholic community.

Akiko Anderson

Akiko was born in Tokyo, in 1942. Her family lost their home when American B-29 bombers bombed their neighborhood. She came to the U.S. with her American husband in 1980. After getting her BA at Eastern Michigan University she worked as an accountant for hospitals in Michigan and Virginia. She moved to Rose Villa from Oregon City in 2023. She was a poet, an artist, musician, and world traveler, having recently. returned from an extended visit to relatives in Japan.

Reggie Okazaki

Reggie was born in 1944 in a Japanese American internment camp in Poston, AZ. He grew up in CA and earned a business degree from Cal State Northridge. He returned to school at USC and became a physician’s assistant who focused on natural medicine. He and his wife Miranda Manners came to RV from Long Beach, CA. While here he loved to walk, shop at Fred Meyer, and discuss trends in medicine.

Jack Jakobsen

Jack Jakobsen was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1936 and graduated from the University of Nebraska. After moving to California, his favorite job was as a county sheriff in Santa Cruz.

After he retired as Director of General Services for Santa Cruz County he and his wife Sheila moved to Portland, and then in 2019 to Rose Villa. During his college years he worked for a commercial photographer. While his professional pursuits took him in very different directions, his love of photography remained a vital part of his life. His photographs of the Portland Japanese Garden are used on their web page and in 2021 were part of a RV resident art exhibit.

Joyce Jones

The always elegant Joyce Jones was born in Lebanon, Oregon in 1932. She and her husband Doug, who died in 2021, lived in West Linn for 25 years on a 7-acre farm where they enjoyed riding their horses. Eager to move into Rose Villa they came in 2013, when construction was first starting, and lived in a local apartment complex for over 2 years while they waited for their new home in Rose Villa.