



Wilma Rogers

August 3, 1923 - December 19, 2015

Wilma Louise Tolley Rogers died peacefully in her home with the aid of hospice care on December 19.

Wilma was born in Omaha, Illinois to Martin Tolley and Bessie Glover Tolley. She grew up in southern Illinois and entered college at Southern Illinois University in 1941. During WWII Wilma was offered a job as a journalist for The Pantagraph newspaper in Bloomington, Illinois. Her journalism career led her to Pueblo, Colorado in 1951 where she met and married husband, Howard A. Rogers. The couple had three children.

The family lived in Colorado and California before a career in the Christmas tree growing industry led them to Olympia, Washington in 1966. There, Wilma started a career as a teacher and librarian at St. Michael's Elementary School. She continued her education at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, attaining a BA in Education and a MA in Library Science. The couple relocated to Dallas, Oregon in 1980 where Wilma worked in the library at Chemeketa Community College until retiring in 1988. In Dallas, she was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church and helped establish the Delbert Hunter Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Wilma made a final move to Neotsu, Oregon in 2004. She was active in St. James Episcopal Church in Lincoln City.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Howard A. Rogers and daughter, Melinda Cowdery. Surviving family are daughters Julie Peters of Salem, Ore. and Emily Rogers of Neotsu, Ore.; grandchildren Alex Peters of Jefferson, Ore., and Carmen Romerdahl of Anchorage, Alaska; great-grandchildren, Chloe, Madeline and Parker Romerdahl.

Wilma will be remembered for her life-time love of reading and gardening. Donations in her memory can be made to the St. James Santiago School, PO Box 789, Lincoln City, Ore. 97367, a favorite project she supported. She will be greatly missed by her family and community.