Celebration of the Life of Candace Dunn Morgan

April 9, 1942–December 16, 2023
Candy Morgan died December 16th of complications from dementia. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Doug Morgan, two daughters and sons-in-law (Cheryl Morgan-Peter LaPonte and Kari Brenk-Brian Porter), brother (Michael Dunn), grandson (Morgan Brenk) and dozens of basketball-intense cousins who are part of the Bill Walton family clan.

Candy was a “war-time baby”, born on the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco in 1942. After the war, her mother and father (Berkeley Graduates), moved to El Centro, California where her father used his engineering degree to work as a mechanical engineer in the air conditioning business. Subsequently, the family moved to the San Diego area where Candy’s father ended his career with Frank Hope Associates, the oldest architectural firm in San Diego. Candy’s mother, Marion, served as office manager for the Hope firm.

Candy attended Sweetwater High School in National City California where she graduated valedictorian and went on to the University of California, Riverside where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Political Science in three years. After receiving her B.A., she went to Columbia University where she earned a Master’s Degree in Library Science. In 1999 she augmented her Library degree with an Executive MPA degree from Lewis and Clark.

Candy’s career as a Librarian started at the Los Angeles County Public Library, West Covina, where she worked as both a Serials and Reference Librarian. She followed her husband to Michigan State University and The University of Chicago where she worked as the Michigan State Social Science Bibliographer and Reference Librarian at the Chicago Municipal Reference Library. Again, following her husband’s academic career, Candy moved to Springfield, Illinois to become Head of Legislative Reference & General Information for Illinois State Library. Out of a love for the water, mountains and forests, Candy, her husband, and two daughters moved to Oregon in 1977 where Candy took a position as Administrator of Public Services at the Oregon State Library. Candy finished her career at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library as Associate Director in charge of Community Library Services where she retired in 2004 and started devoting more time to volunteer public service.

While a public librarian to the core, even more Candy was devoted to public service writ large. In this role Candy touched the lives of thousands of public servants as a librarian, First Amendment champion, legal activist, educator, lecturer and author. She served for more than 15 years on the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, sometimes as chair, sometimes as committee sub-chair or sometimes as committee member. As a devoted First Amendment advocate, Candy served nearly twenty years on the American Library Association Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees. During the same time period, Candy served on the Oregon ACLU Board and as its President (2005–2006 and 2011–2014).

As a legal activist Candy served as a plaintiff and witness to major First Amendment cases. She testified before the U.S. Senate Committee of Commerce, Science and Transportation on S. 97, Children’s Internet Protection Act. She was a witness for the American Library Association in the legal challenge to the Children’s Internet Protection Act (ALA v US; Civil Action No. 01-1322, 01-1303, March 25, 2001) and was a named Plaintiff in American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon v. John Kroger, formerly Powell’s Books, v. Myers.
As an educator Candy taught courses on Management, Information Ethics, Introduction to Copyright and Licensing for Emporia State University’s School of Library and Information Management from 2003–2017. She taught Policy Analysis and Research in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University from 1996–2009. As a scholar, Candy was the lead for several American Library Association publications, including Project Director and contributing author to for the 7th edition (2006) and 8th edition (2010) of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. She authored more than a half dozen other articles on intellectual freedom issues.

Candy received the highest awards for her contributions to the cause of intellectual freedom. She was awarded the Oregon Library Association Intellectual Freedom Champion of the Year in 1997. She holds the Roll of Honor Award from the Freedom to Read Foundation, the William O. Douglas Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington (2004), the Oregon Library Association Honorary Life Cel Membership (2004), the Washington Library Association’s President’s Award and ProQuest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award (2005) and the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon E.B. MacNaughton Civil Liberties Award (2010).

In her avocational time, Candy was a passionate organic gardener and active member of the Portland climbing community since 1985. She served as a Mazama climb leader, leading 27 and assisting with 14 successful climbs. She was a recipient in 1995 of the 16 Peaks Award for climbing the 16 major peaks in Oregon, Washington, and Shasta in California. She is also recipient of the Parker Cup Award, viewed by many as Mazamas’ most prestigious award, given to a member who has distinguished themselves by hard work, ability and self-sacrifice for the benefit of the Mazamas.

With the passing of Candy Morgan, we lose a loving wife, mother, grandmother, librarian, mentor, Mazama and public servant extraordinaire.

Memorial contributions in Candy’s honor may be made to:
1. ACLU of Oregon (https://www.aclu-or.org/en/donate)
2. Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation (https://fvrlfoundation.org/how-to-contribute/)

A Celebration of Life program and buffet will be held February 18th, 2024, 2-5 PM at Willamette View Retirement community, The Blue Heron Auditorium, 12705 SE River Road, Portland.