

On The Record

OBITUARIES

VACCARO—Linda Vaccaro (Long) passed away Nov. 14, 2021, in Florence, Ore., with her daughter Lindsay holding her hand.

Linda was born in the summer of 1935 in Chandler, Ariz., to parents Hoover and Eva Long. The family moved to Modesto, Calif., where Linda attended Modesto High School and married her high school sweetheart, J. William (Bill) Vaccaro, on May 17, 1953.

Bill and Linda were married 57 years before he died in 2010. She was his loving caregiver throughout his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

They had three children, William A. Vaccaro (Karen), Victor L. Vaccaro (Robin) and Lindsay J. Besson (Joe); eight grandchildren, Nickie Salyer, Joe and Marcus Vaccaro, Ashley Berns, Marisa and Katie Besson, Callan and Connor Vaccaro; and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her younger brother Keith Long.

In her youth, Linda displayed a rebel spirit. She was voted valedictorian of her high school class. After staff reviewed her speech titled "Looking at Life Through Rose Colored Glasses," she was asked to rewrite the document. When she refused, Linda was removed as a speaker.

After Bill was drafted during the Korean War, they were stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. During a shopping trip there, Linda refused to let a young black woman be seated in the back of a bus, as was the practice at the time. Instead, she insisted she sit

next to her in the front row, causing a small but lasting trend.

Linda was an avid skier, and both she and Bill served in the National Ski Patrol.

She loved to travel, and, along with Bill, saw most of the world. They took each of their eight grandchildren on trips to foreign lands.

Her sense of adventure led her to break her wrist at age 45 while roller skating, and flying a hang glider at age 50. Linda and Bill explored most of the western states via snow mobile, and made over 20 trips to Alaska for fishing.

She kept in touch with her friends and relatives from Modesto, Davis, Woodland, Chico and Florence, and looked forward to reunions of Modesto High School classmates, sometimes entertaining them at her home in Florence, Ore. She always said friends and family mattered most in her life. Holidays and celebrations were highlights of her year, and she looked forward to the next one on her calendar.

Their life in Chico was highlighted by the establishment of Vaccaro Seed/California, and Linda became "the hostess with the moistest," entertaining guests from all over the world, and having an annual dinner party for farmers, friends and customers at their home. They moved to Florence when Bill retired in 1996.

Her passion was reading and keeping informed about current events. Linda read newspapers, periodicals, novels and nonfiction. She had a talent for telling jokes and had a great sense

of humor. Sharing a good laugh with her was always a delight. She also had a talent for designing and making unique Christmas and greeting cards, and made hundreds each year.

Linda was a faithful fan of the University of Oregon Ducks football team and enjoyed attending many home games and bowl games.

Linda left us at 7 p.m. Nov. 14. She will be missed by many. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Bill and sister Deanna Foster.

In lieu of flowers, Linda asked that a donation be made in her memory to Florence Food Share, PO Box 2514, Florence, OR 97439, or a charity of your choice.

BECK—Richard Alan Beck passed away November 26, 2021, at the age of 64, following severe brain trauma.

Rick was born August 18, 1957, in Monterey, Calif. The family moved to Nevada City, Calif., October 1972 and got their first taste of life with four seasons. It was the record coldest winter in 100 years!

After high school, Rick attended trade school in Phoenix, Ariz., for heating/air-conditioning. In 1977, he married Pam Carmen and they had three children.

He started his own heating/AC business. They later divorced.

He went on to obtain his stockbrokers license and worked for AG Edwards. He eventually moved to San

Jose, Calif., and obtained his realtor license. He was property manager for a commercial real estate company.

In 2005, his mom and dad moved to Florence, Ore., and bought a boat. Rick moved up, and many fishing and crabbing trips followed. He loved Florence and the coastal weather. His parents utilized his skills.

His sister, Dawn preceded him in death in 1987. He is survived by his parents Lloyd & Lois Beck; three children, Mandi Karsikas, Cyndi Beck and Adam Beck. Also, three grandchildren; Emma, Ella and Casius. An Uncle George Beck

(Priscilla); Aunt Geri Harren, and numerous cousins.

His valued friends include those who gathered at Bridgeport Market at the Port of Siuslaw River.

He is dearly loved and sorely missed. Our

comfort is, that he is with God and has his heavenly body. The family will have a memorial in Grass Valley, Calif., at a future date.

Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.



Linda Vaccaro



Rick Beck

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SIUSLAW NEWS

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To our valued readers:

Help small businesses affected by the coronavirus right now, including ours.

We've survived two tough years — businesses of all sizes have been hit hard. Some local businesses will never reopen. Recovery has begun, only to be stalled with these new variants.

Through it all, the *Siuslaw News* hasn't missed a beat. We've kept our journalists and support staff employed and expanded our digital services to keep the community informed.

For nearly 132 years — through pandemics and wars, depressions and natural disasters, good times and growth — the *Siuslaw News* has provided the community with the information it needs.

Last year, we started the **Support Local Together** campaign to help area businesses who have to choose between promoting their business and paying the electric bill. It also helped support the *Siuslaw News*, who continues to see a decrease in advertising revenue.

As we look to a new year, we're celebrating what connects us as a community and what we can do to support our local businesses. I hope we can continue to receive your support.

SUPPORT LOCAL TOGETHER DOES TWO THINGS:

1. Funds advertising dollars for local businesses

Your financial support goes directly to fund advertising that our local businesses need to stay top of mind.

2. Supports local journalism

By becoming a supporting member, you are helping to replace some of the advertising revenue the *Siuslaw News* has lost over the past twenty months due to the pandemic.

HERE IS HOW TO SUPPORT:

• Call *Siuslaw News* at 541-902-3524

• Make a donation of your choosing.

• Choose a specific local business that you would like the advertising credit to go to, or leave that blank and we will designate it to a business we know needs help.

Our community is small but generous and we recognize there are many great organizations, like ours, that could use your help.

We believe the vast majority of our readers have always shared our view of the value and necessity of community-based journalism, and are willing to provide support equal to two or three cups of coffee a month to secure its future.

Thank you in advance for doing your share to secure a strong local economy in the community we are proud to serve.

Jenna Bartlett
Publisher
jbartlett@thesiuslawnews.com
541-902-3524

SIUSLAW NEWS
UNITY WITH OUR
COMMUNITY

Yes, I would like to become a 2020/21 Support Local Together Sponsor

Call 541-902-3524

Mail sponsorship form to: **Siuslaw News Supporter**
PO Box 10 Florence Oregon 97439

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other Amount _____

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