

Eleanor Heldreth Parsons

September 7, 2019



Eleanor Parsons passed away on September 1, 2019 in Grants Pass, Oregon after a long illness at the age of 90.

Eleanor was born on April 16, 1929 in Lumberport, West Virginia. She lived in the State until graduating from Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg, West Virginia in 1947. After graduation, at the age of 18 she moved west, locating in Crescent City, California to be close to several of her Uncle's that were living in Crescent City. She worked for a short time in her Uncle Tom Wadsworth's Jewelry store in the City. In December 1948 she was hired by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department as an entry level clerk. She was very dedicated to the Department and became one of their most valued and outstanding employees. She served the Sheriff's Department for 18 years, ending her tenure in January 1967 as its Chief Civil Deputy. She left the department to join her husband Dale Parsons in new business partnership they purchased together.

Eleanor met Dale Parsons in 1949. He was born in Crescent City and working at the time in his father's trucking business. Both Dale and Eleanor were immediately smitten with each other and soon were

engaged. They were married on April 9, 1950 in the United Methodist Church in Crescent City. They were members of the Church for more than 68 years until Dale's passing in May 2018.

In 1966, Dale and Eleanor purchased Burtchell's Paint Store in Crescent City, and soon re-named it Parsons Paints. Eleanor and Dale genuinely enjoyed working together in business. They were a great team. Eleanor was the highly skilled office manager who expertly kept the stores books, and records balanced. Dale was a gifted salesman who could both sell to and service their customers. They operated the store for 20 years, and also expanded it to build a larger store on 225 I Street, and added new floorcovering and interior decorating products. Eleanor and Dale worked very hard to create a customer friendly business that quickly became the premier store to go to for residents and businesses in Del Norte County CA, and in Curry County Oregon for their painting, floorcovering, and interior decorating needs. The Parsons were especially generous with their time, talents and resources in helping to promote the economic welfare and quality of life in the communities they served. They upheld the highest standards of honesty, integrity and quality customer service in operating their family business. They were strong supporters of the Crescent City Chamber of Commerce and enjoyed participating in business development and in promoting the local economy.

During their working years Eleanor and Dale enjoyed business trips, boating, and traveling together to visit family members and friends. After retiring from their store business in 1986, Eleanor and Dale joined with several friends and formed the "Tsunami Sam's" RV group. They enjoyed many years of recreational travel together throughout the country.

Eleanor's life was also enriched by her involvement in many other civic and community affairs. For many years she was an active member of the Soroptimist Club in Crescent City, serving as President and Board member. She was a very patriotic person who especially enjoyed being an active member of the Republican Party all her adult life; and in the Federated Republican Women of Del Norte County, serving as its President in 2004. She could always be seen with Dale participating in Crescent City's annual 4th of July parade showcasing the Grand Old Party!

Eleanor's other hobbies and interests included reading and writing to her family and friends and learning how to use a computer. She also had a special talent for gardening around their home and nursery; as well as making pottery, crocheting and sewing special blankets and comforters.

Eleanor was a very bright and gifted person, with a warm and inviting personality and a generous heart, who also embraced humility, grace and reverence for God throughout her life. She was devoted to her faith as a Christian and as a person that really cared for others who were in need. She was especially caring for her closest family members and friends in times of illness. Her unconditional devotion and love for her husband stood the test of time. When he fell seriously ill the last few years of his life, she loved and cared for him every day until his passing in May of last year. What a gift she was to him, and he was to her.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband Dale, her parents Curtis and Manila Heldreth, her mother and father in-law Henry and Marian Parsons, her brothers Holbert, and Walter Heldreth, her sisters Ruby and Evelin Heldreth; and her brother and sister in-law Richard and Shirley Zais. She is survived by her cousins

Wes and Linda Wadsworth, Betty Sherman and her daughter Melanie, and Sharon Van Bebbber; her brother in-laws Wayne Parsons, Gary Parsons and his wife Jean, nephews Richard Zais and his wife Tammy, Gary Halverson and his wife Susan, Hank Halverson and his wife Gena, and Joseph Parsons; nieces Kathleen West, Marilyn Brandler and her husband Bruce, and Susan Parsons Klein; her great nephews Kevin, Michael and Matthew Halvorson, Michael Oechsner, Justin Brandler and his wife Sara; great-nieces Eleanor Marie Schroeder and her husband Daniel, Jennifer Hesse and her husband Colin, Emily Proffitt and her husband John and many other extended family members and close friends throughout Del Norte County and Harrison County West Virginia.

Visitation will be at Wier's Mortuary Chapel on Friday September 13, 2019 from noon to 5:00 PM and on Saturday September 14, 2019 from 9:00 AM until service time.

A Celebration of the Life of Eleanor will be held at Wier's Mortuary Chapel in Crescent City CA on Saturday September 14, 2019 at 11:00 AM with interment to follow at the IOOF Cemetery in Crescent City. A reception following the service will be held at the United Methodist Church, 664 H St in Crescent City CA.

Donations and memorial gifts in Eleanor's name and memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wier's Mortuary Chapel.

Please sign the family's online guest book at wiersmortuary.com

-Submitted by Wier's Mortuary Chape; T258404