



Skipper Kendall

Aptos Realtor Skipper Kendall dead at 64

Mary Elizabeth (Skipper) Kendall, an Aptos real estate broker and civic leader, died at home last night after an extended battle with cancer. She was 64.

Mrs. Kendall moved to this area in 1969 and launched the real-estate firm of Kendall & Potter with her partner, Bill Potter. In a fiercely competitive residential market filled with national real estate companies, the strictly local company prospered, often cited by the Board of Realtors for making the most sales.

And as she ran the business, she didn't neglect community affairs. She was the campaign fund chairman for United Way in 1980, worked on the Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital Foundation and was one of the first six women in the United States to be inducted into the previously all-male Rotary Club.

Mrs. Kendall was born in Elizabethtown, N.C., and was raised in Swainsboro, Ga. She got her nickname as a teenager, when her father bought her and her brother a small boat.

She graduated from high school in 1942, after being named "Miss Swainsboro" in 1941. She was also the self-proclaimed "best smoocher" in the area. She attended West Georgia Military College, and graduated from Georgia State College for Women.

She met her husband, Burt Kendall, while she was working for the military in 1944 at Fort Stewart. They married, and when he returned from the war they moved to Los Angeles briefly before moving to the San Francisco Bay Peninsula.

There, they had four children, and Mrs. Kendall began working as a real estate agent in 1964.

After moving to Aptos and starting her own business, she served, over the years, on the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors committees for governmental and public relations. Mr. Potter and Mrs. Kendall received the Realtors of the Year from the Board in 1988, and for several years in a row won awards for selling the most property.

They were known for holding "Bottom of the Boom" parties for fellow Realtors when the real estate market took a dive in the late 1970s.

Mrs. Kendall was one of the first two women ever installed in the Midcounty Rotary Club in 1986, and one of the first six women ever installed in the organization worldwide.

She was a founding member of the Santa Cruz Quota Club, and was on the board of directors of Janus House, a substance-abuse recovery center. She was a member of the Aptos Community United Methodist Church, and served on its board of directors as well.

Her hobbies included tap dancing and visiting a 123-acre working farm she bought a dozen years ago in Georgia.

She leaves her husband of 45 years, Burt Kendall, of Rio Del Mar; four children, Wayne and Lance Kendall, both of Aptos, Candace Bernstein, of Alamo, and Blair Kendall, of Swainsboro, Ga.; a brother, Homer T. Meaders Jr., of Palo Alto; a cousin, Jean Minton, of Swainsboro, Ga.; and five grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Norman's Family Chapel in Soquel.