

## Judith Joy Ketels, 72

PCCR  
3-20-2013

Judith Joy Ketels, 72 of Weston, Vt., died at home on March 5, 2013 while under hospice care, following a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born near Montezuma on Nov. 26, 1940, the second daughter of Walter and Maxine (Miller) Ketels. She attended country school graduating from Montezuma High School in 1959. In 1963, she graduated from the State College of Iowa (now the University of Northern Iowa) as a business major. She was named Miss Future Female Business Executive in 1963 by the college.

Judi began her career with J.C. Penney Co. while in college. She held several jobs with the retailer, often being the first woman named to a position, including being the first female management trainee for the company. In 1974, she was promoted to company headquarters in New York City. After over 25 years with JCP, she retired and moved to Arlington, Vt. in 1989.

In Vermont, she thrived on hiking, reading, touring and volunteering in the village. Judi started her own company, "Walking Tours of Southern Vermont." She led groups hiking inn-to-inn with the help of a history, nature or photography guide and aided by llamas as pack animals. With this venture, she could share her beloved Green Mountain State with others and she stated "they were the best years of my life."

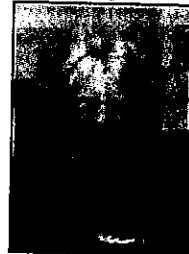
In 1996, Judi was diagnosed with cancer and she closed her hiking company to focus on regaining her health. She then worked for several business and later owned a Curves franchise in Bennington, one of the first in Vermont. In 2005, after selling her business and her home, she retired again. She purchased a 32' motor home and with her beloved cat, Lilly, began traveling around the country. She traveled extensively throughout the U.S., visiting the places she had longed to see. This quest ended when her declining health brought her back to Vermont in February, 2013.

Judi enjoyed meeting new people and hearing about their travels. She also loved nature, a good laugh, reading, volunteering, and her family and friends.

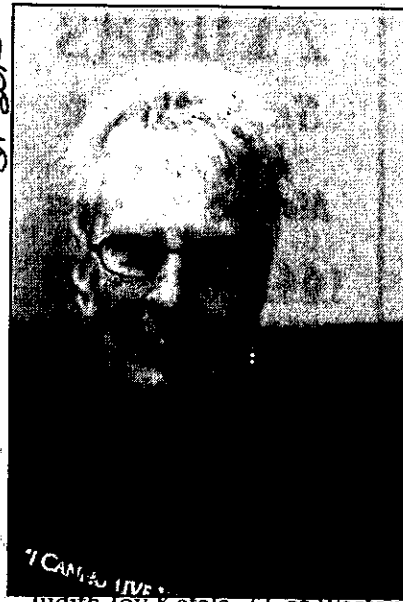
Judi was preceded in death by her parents; her infant brother, Steven Jon Ketels; her brother-in-law, Ralph Willett; and her nephew, Jeffrey Spain.

She is survived by her sisters, Karen Willett of Brooklyn, Sheryl (Darrell) Spain of Montezuma; and nephews, David Willett and James Spain both of Iowa. Judi will also be greatly missed by many other relatives and dear friends, especially the Nunnikhovens and Seymours of Vermont.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma with services to be held at a later date. A celebration of Judi's life will also be held in Vermont in the future. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen for a Cure, the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless (the 6 Bank Street Shelter), the Vermont Food Bank, the American Cancer Society or the hospice of your choice.



Record 3-21-2013



Judith Joy Ketels, 72, of Weston, Vermont died at home March 5, while under hospice care, following a courageous battle with cancer. Services will be held at a later date.

She was born near Montezuma, Nov. 26, 1940, the second daughter of Walter and Maxine (Miller) Ketels. She attended country school graduating from Montezuma High School in 1959. In 1963 she was graduated from Iowa State Teacher College. (now the University of Northern Iowa) as a business major. She was named Miss Future Female Business Executive in 1963 by the college.

Judi began her career with J.C. Penney Co. while in college. She held several jobs with the retailer, often being the first woman named to a position, including being the first female management trainee for the company. In 1974, she was promoted to company headquarters in New York City. After over 25 years with JCP, she retired and moved to Arlington, Vt in 1989.

In Vermont, she thrived on hiking, reading, touring and volunteering in the village. Judi started her own company, "Walking Tours of Southern Vermont." She led groups hiking inn-to-inn with the help of a history, nature or photography

guide and aided by llamas as pack animals. With this venture, she could share her beloved Green Mountain State with others and she stated "they were the best years of my life."

In 1996, Judi was diagnosed with cancer and she closed her hiking company to focus on regaining her health. She then worked for several businesses and later owned a Curves franchise in Bennington, one of the first in Vermont. In 2005, after selling her business and her home, she retired again. She purchased a 32' motor home, and with her beloved cat, Lilly, began traveling around the country. She traveled extensively throughout the U.S., visiting the places she had longed to see. This quest ended when her declining health brought her back to Vermont in February, 2013.

Judi enjoyed meeting new people and hearing about their travels. She also loved nature, a good laugh, reading, volunteering, and her family and friends. Judi was preceded in death by her parents; her infant brother, Steven Jon Ketels; her brother-in-law, Ralph Willett and her nephew, Jeffrey Spain.

Judi will also be greatly missed by many other relatives and dear friends, especially the Nunnikhovens and Seymours of Vermont.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma with services to be held at a later date. A celebration of Judi's life will also be held in Vermont in the future. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: the Susan G. Komen for a Cure, the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless (the 6 Bank Street Shelter), the Vermont Food Bank, the American Cancer Society or the hospice of your choice.