



Doris Elizabeth Klein

August 3, 1926 - January 9, 2022

Doris (Buck) Klein, avid hiker, naturalist and community volunteer, died January 9 in Benicia at age 95.

Born in Pasadena and raised in Wyoming and Clear Lake, Calif., Doris moved to Oakland after high school and married Robert E. (Bob) Klein (1925-1994). The couple moved to Vallejo in 1951 where they raised their family and established the Rockridge Development Company, a family-owned construction business that served the region for 40 years.

Doris was a parishioner and active volunteer at Saint Basil the Great Catholic Church and served as president of the Solano County Catholic Social Services in the early 1970s.

After helping to grow her family's business and raising three children, Doris found more time to pursue her interests in the great outdoors. A naturalist at heart, she found her calling as a hike leader by starting both the Vallejo Hikers and Benicia Club-Ped, weekly hiking groups. She scouted and led hikes for three decades.

Her greatest joy was sharing her knowledge of nature. Doris was an advocate for preserving open space and making nature accessible to all. She was a founding member of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. On days when she wasn't leading or joining hikes, she could be found working on trail maintenance, helping to extend the Ridge Trail through Solano and Napa counties, and serving as a docent for Solano Land Trust's Lynch Canyon property.

In recognition of her many contributions, in 2003 a commemorative bench with

commanding views of San Pablo Bay and the Carquinez Strait was installed atop the ridge between Benicia and Vallejo. The bench is inscribed: "With Doris leading, we see nature's wonders through the souls of our feet." Doris led an adventurous life, was kind, caring and a friend to all.

She is survived by her children Russell (Sue) of Hayward, Susie (Jim Hammitt) of Wayland, Mass., Chris (Kimberly) of Benicia; grandchildren Justin, Lindsey and Megan Klein, Robert and Galen Hammitt; and great grandchildren Asher Klein and Eleanor Hammitt.

Donations in Doris' honor may be made to the Solano Land Trust.

Tribute Wall



“ *Doris Elizabeth Klein*

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