



Katherine "Kitty" Louise Cone

June 7, 1925 - October 19, 2024

Kitty Cone, Ph.D., Educator, Social Worker, and Founder of Resources for Children's Health, has died at 99.

October 19, 2024

Fort Collins, CO

Katherine Lancaster Cone, known to all as Kitty, was born in Pittsburgh, PA on June 7, 1925. She graduated from Bellevue High School in 1942 and attended the Pennsylvania College for Women, now Chatham University, for one year until war time conditions ended her education plans. She was recruited by Westinghouse as an engineer's assistant in the East Pittsburgh works and when WW II ended, she met her husband, William B. Cone (deceased) at the company. The two raised four children together, eventually settling in the North Hills where she was a member of Memorial Park Church, Allison Park and became its first woman Elder.

In the 1970s, Kitty, a lifelong learner, worked to receive a bachelor's degree from La Roche College, and her MSW and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She was a faculty member in the Graduate School of Public Health at Pitt as she finished her education, nearly forty years after her first college studies.

Widowed in 1980, she relocated to Philadelphia in 1981 and worked for the

University of Pennsylvania and Episcopal Community Services. She founded Resources for Children's Health, a community based non-profit focused on reducing infant mortality in Philadelphia. RCH was later absorbed into Philadelphia's Public Health Management Corporation. Her Community Peer Mentor model is still in use today to support at-risk women during pregnancy and early infant care.

She was a long-time member of Old Pine Street Church in Society Hill and later Gloria Dei Church in Huntingdon Valley where she enjoyed both worship and a community of friends.

An eager and talented jitterbug dancer in her youth, she loved music and social gatherings with family and friends to her final days. As an organizer and social activist, she thought deeply about, and acted on ways to be helpful to those in need. She believed that education is the highest path to opportunity and continued to enrich her life with learning. After retirement, she became a yoga teacher, an activity she continued until age 89.

Kitty was a mentor and role model to her many friends and colleagues with decades of support and wise counsel. In her final few years, she was in the care of The Residence at Oakridge in Fort Collins, CO., near her son, Charles. She is survived by her four children, Marcia Cone Esaki (Koji) Osaka, Japan, Larry Cone (Marie) Surf City, NC, Chuck Cone (Susan) Loveland, CO, and Kate Cone Garza (Len) Philadelphia, PA.

She had 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren who knew her as Nana. She enjoyed many visits with all the grand kids in her active senior years and was able to meet and get to know the next generation. She was always happy to hear of each child's activities and milestones.

Go Fund Me page for charitable contributions to be made in honor of Kitty:
Honoring Kitty Cone: Support Her Legacy (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/honori>)

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Tribute Wall

DG

“ I met Kitty during her stay at *The Residence at Oakridge*. She was always sharing her smile with everyone. I enjoyed getting to hear about some of her life experiences, and was amazed at how sharp she was right to her end. She was an amazing person and I am fortunate to get to know her.
Dean Gebhardt

Dean Gebhardt - November 01, 2024 at 10:28 AM

RB

“ I have warm memories of Kitty joining myself and Marcia while traveling in southern Italy many years ago. She was such a great sport and up for adventure, even when I said we had to hitchhike to find a laundromat in Calabria! *Robin Mahan Bass*

Robin Mahan Bass - October 25, 2024 at 08:30 AM

PM

“ I have so many beautiful memories of Kitty from her days at Gloria Day church in Philadelphia. I was always amazed by her eagerness to continue growing in her faith, even as she was a wise elder and could teach so many about spirituality and prayer.

When Kitty and I would meet for Spiritual Direction, after she had checked in and shared with me her questions and reflections, she never failed to ask how things were going in my life. Even after I moved from Philadelphia she wanted to know what was happening at my farm. I always prayed for folks at the end of a Spiritual Direction visit, but every time I prayed with Kitty, she would then end the prayer by praying for me!

I especially remember her courage and trust to embark on a pilgrimage with me to Celtic holy places in Ireland. She had not yet learned how to use her debit card to get money from her bank, but she let me teacher her on the streets of Dublin!

One of the most meaningful ways I spent time with Kitty was with her participation in one of Gloria Dei's, discipleship groups. She was definitely the elder in our group, and we regularly would tell her, and share with one another, that when we grew up, we would like to be like Kitty! That is still my hope in my own life. May I live, and die, with the kind of compassion and trust that shaped her life and her transition home to Love.

Shalom,
Pastor Mary

Pastor Mary - October 24, 2024 at 05:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - October 24, 2024 at 05:19 PM