



Mavis Norris

August 7, 1924 - June 14, 2016

Local entrepreneur, community volunteer, committed Catholic and sharp-witted grandmother; the city of Newport has lost one of its most colorful characters. Mavis Norris passed away Tuesday, June 14, in her home. She was 91 years old.

Mavis was born August 7, 1924 in Ortonville, Minnesota. While out with her friends one night, Mavis met a younger man, Harold, who fibbed about his age to get her attention. As opposites often do attract (she was a Republican while he was a Democrat), the two married and raised four children while spending 23 years in the US Air Force.

Upon retirement, Mavis and Hal purchased the 4 G's restaurant in Tillamook, Oregon in 1973. They renamed it the 4 J's and later opened restaurants in Newport, Waldport and Longview. Mavis took on restaurant ownership with gusto, developing many of the signature recipes herself. She was an especially skilled baker. Ting-a-lings, hello dollies, pecan tassies and rhubarb upside down cake were her specialties. Each Christmas, Mavis would spend weeks baking and filling cookie tins and plates to expand the waistlines of friends and family alike.

While Mavis enjoyed living in many places throughout her lifetime, she considered Newport her true home. She volunteered at the Performing Arts

Center, cleaned candles at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, acted as a reading buddy to Sam Case Elementary students and was active with the Mombetsu Sister City Exchange program. Mavis was even integral in bringing Newport its very first skate park.

Mavis took great pride in being out and about in the community of Newport well into her senior years. Multiple times a day, Mavis could be seen driving her Buick LaSabre to the Chalet. To her, the restaurant was reminiscent of the 4 J's and she enjoyed the camaraderie of the staff.

Mavis is survived by her two daughters Julie Hanrahan and Jaynie Ard; son-in-law Mark Hanrahan; son Jay Norris; brother Jack Saeger; sister Donna Hustad and by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Private family/graveside services were held June 20th at Eureka Cemetery.