

Patricia Helen Mayo

November 3, 1915 - April 21, 2017

Pat Mayo, 101 years old, died peacefully at home in Tualatin, Oregon on April 21 with her niece, Shelley, holding her hand.

"Expect the best" was Pat's motto for living. For many decades, this motto served her well. She had an exciting, interesting journey through a century of historic events.

In her autobiography, *A Touch of Temerity*, Pat wrote, "I want to tell you the story of my life. Why? Because it was a happy story, full of love, work and adventure."

Pat was born on November 3, 1915 to John Walter and Marcia (Stewart) Mayo in Stayton, Oregon. She was the middle child between her older brother Stewart and sister Jeanne. Her mother was talented and university educated in Nebraska. Her Father's grandparents homesteaded land in the area near Lyons, Oregon. He started a bank in Stayton and initiated the farmer's cooperative that eventually became North Pacific Cannery and Packers Inc. The children had a wonderful life growing up. When the depression hit they moved to Portland, and with his partner, Mr. Arneson, her father founded Flavor Pac foods, which became NORPAC. After Pat and her sister graduated from Grant High, her parents built the family home on the lake in Lake Oswego in 1935.

Her international adventures began while attending Oregon State College, from which she graduated. It was the summer of 1937 and Pat was headed to Bonn University in Germany as an exchange student. It was a year of new friends, travel, and studies. She was in Austria in March 1938 when Germany invaded.

Returning to Oregon, Pat chose social work as her career. After working at many interesting jobs, including managing the WPA arts commission for Timberline Lodge, her first serious job was with the Public Welfare Department in Roseburg, Oregon. At the office, she met another social worker, Helen Falbe.

Pat and Helen became close friends and life partners for 40 years. At the beginning of World War II, Pat and Helen bought a house on a small acreage in Roseburg. It became known as "The Farm," complete with a horse, milk cow and chickens. They added 3 small rental houses to the front pasture with some money Helen's mother left her. She left temporarily to do graduate studies in social work at the University of Washington.

While still living in Roseburg in 1955, she became a European tour guide, taking a group of women to Sweden, London, Germany and Austria. It was the first of many trips leading tours. She was also an active member of the Orchestra in Roseburg. The love of music that she learned from her mother stayed with her all of her life, and included singing, piano, violin, cello, clarinet, flute, accordion, and ukulele.

In 1958, they sold their Roseburg property and bought a small cabin on the beautiful Little River in Glide, Oregon, east of Roseburg. They built a simple but beautiful chalet there that reminded her of the European homes she had enjoyed in her travels. She worked as a language teacher and counselor at Glide High School and maintained lifelong relationships with several of her students.

In 1964 she and Helen moved to Eugene where she received free tuition and a generous stipend to do graduate work in counseling the handicapped and received her masters in education. Helen continued social work and Pat continued with her PhD and teaching. After her mother died in '68, they both decided to retire and travel, including a four-month trip by freighter with Helen to Japan, China and the Philippines.

After her father died in '72, she found another beautiful double lot in Sisters, Oregon, where she had yet another practical but nice home built, with a perfect view of the Sisters Mts. In '73 she embarked on her most adventurous journey: traveling alone to Turkey, Lebanon, Iran, Russia, Siberia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Budapest and Vienna. She also toured Ethiopia, Egypt and Kenya during this extended trip. In Iran, she began her extensive collection of Persian rugs. Few women at the time would have undertaken such a trip, but Pat was a fearless traveler. "Expect the best!" During the years in Sisters, she and Helen and her sister, Jeanne, continued yearly winter road trips to Mexico. She also visited her niece Marcia and family on a trip to Chile and Peru, where she climbed Machu Pichu. During the summers she and Helen loved rambling across the entire U.S., following threads of genealogy.

After Helen died in '79 Pat soon met with Ann Beckley. They moved to a house overlooking the Puget Sound in Edmonds, Washington, until Ann's retirement from the Navy. They then moved to Ann's portion of the family ranch on the Umpqua River in Elkton where they built and lived in 'the Barn' and took up lawn bowling. Together they focused on lawn bowling across the U.S., and participated in World Tournaments in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Pat loved playing, arranging tours, and traveling with the team. In the process they discovered Laguna Woods in Orange County, CA, and decided to settle there.

In '95 when Pat was nearly 80, she decided she wanted to be "out" in order to honor the 40 happy years she'd had with Helen. The *Los Angeles Times* ran a full-page story and photos about her life. That piece had important consequences, "all entirely positive," Pat said. In response to calls that came pouring in, she initiated a new PFLAG group (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and helped form the Rainbow Club at Laguna Woods. Invitations to speak poured in. She continued to lead a very active life making many friends and staying busy with road trips, music, art, reading, playing pool and donating her time to good causes of all kinds including being a founding member of Faith Episcopal Church in Laguna Niguel, CA.

Still driving and independent at 97 years old, Pat decided it was time to leave Laguna Woods. She sold her car and condo and moved to Tucson, AZ to be near her niece Marcia and later to Tualatin, Oregon near her niece Shelley. She lived in an independent retirement home for two years in Beaverton and then moved to the new Marquis assisted living in Tualatin where she had a nice large apartment with basic level of care only.

Being across the street from her niece afforded them much time every evening to spend together doing crosswords, reading TIME, watching TV and going on errands and country drives, for another six months. She maintained her independent happy condition, walking, doing her own personal care, medicine-free and healthy (except for her short term memory), right up until the last day. She was at the table for lunch when a resident noticed she didn't look her usual self. They took her vitals and took her to her bedroom. Her niece and husband arrived in 10 minutes and were with her until she quietly took her last breath about two hours later.

Pat has been the "favorite aunt" to nieces and nephews Cam Patrick of Portland; Marcia (Bill Brown) of Tucson; Shelley (Blaine Simpson) of Tualatin; Steve Mayo (Lynne Masland) of Bellingham; Cindy (Dennis Wolfenbarger) of Eagle, Idaho; Azuriel Paul Mayo (Oceana Kane) of Port Townsend; and to her nine "grandnieces and nephews" and 14 "great-nieces and nephews." As family genealogist, she gathered information on the Mayos, Stewarts, Warners, Minors and Cowles as they left England, always moving westward.

Serenity was Pat's favorite personal characteristic. She always had confidence and calmness in the midst of a zestful adventurous life.

A memorial service was held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Wilsonville on April 28, 2017. She was interred beside her partner, Helen, at Civil Bend Cemetery in Winston, Oregon.

Condolences may be sent to Shelley Simpson, P.O. Box 824, Tualatin, OR 97062. Memorials in Pat's name may be sent to Faith Episcopal Church, 27802 El Lazo, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 that she helped found; St George Episcopal, 1024 SE Cass Ave., Roseburg OR 97470, where she was baptized and confirmed; or St Francis Episcopal, 8818 SW Miley Rd., Wilsonville, OR 97070, where her service was held.