



Margaret Calestro

June 24, 1946 - December 10, 2020

Margaret (Peggy) Calestro

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Peggy was born in New York City but spent her childhood in Ann Arbor, which continued to influence her throughout her life: liberal politics with an emphasis on social justice, lifelong learning, Motown music, and Big Ten football.

She was fortunate to have a long and rewarding career dedicated to improving the lives of others, especially disadvantaged women and children.

As an administrator and development professional for more than forty years, she designed, supervised, and secured funding for a variety of programs.

Peggy held leadership positions at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Center for New Directions, the Higher Education Council of Columbus, Columbus State Community College, and the Ohio Children's Foundation.

Peggy was privileged to serve as a Board member of fifteen local and national not-for-profit organizations. She was an outspoken advocate for Appalachian history and culture, informing others through articles, a book co-written with her daughter Julie, and numerous workshops. Her most recent publication, *Medical Emergencies: A Guide for Navigating the Healthcare System*, will be published by the beginning of next year.

She had a pragmatic, analytical mind, tempered by her sense of humor, appreciation for the importance of music in our lives, and an openness to the spiritual world. Peggy received her undergraduate degree in English from Duke University and an M.B.A. from Franklin University. She was a lifelong

English major, enjoying good fiction and not shy about confronting incorrect grammar.

Peggy was predeceased by her parents, Marcus and Gerry Plant; Ken, her college sweetheart and husband of fifty years; and her dear sister, Betsy. She is survived by her children, Julie and Brady, whom she considered to be her greatest contributions to the world; her brother Mark (London, England); her sister Nancy, niece Kate, and brother-in-law, George Jarecke (Bainbridge Island, WA); her son-in-law, Jerry L. McDonald (Columbus, OH); Her sister Betsy Gallagher's family (Owen Sound, ONT); the Waldman, and Kruse families (CT); and wonderful, supportive friends.

A gathering to celebrate her life will be held at a later time, when we can safely exchange hugs and share memories. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to a fund the family is establishing to help disadvantaged families at a small health clinic in West Virginia. Contributions may be made in her name to Dr. Joanna Bailey, c/o Tug River Health Association, P.O Box 430, Pineville, West Virginia 24874.

Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret Calestro*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



Sunday
Zidonis

“ *I had the honor of working with her. She taught me great deal about caring for the individuals we helped.*

I will always remember her team meetings. She asked great questions!

*Sunday Z.
Columbus State Grants Ofc.*



Sunday Zidonis - January 11, 2021 at 01:01 PM



HM

“ *Sorry to hear about Peggy's passing. I worked for her many years at Columbus State. She was one of the best people I ever worked with. She was very positive especially about family and friends.*

Hal Merz

Hal Merz - January 10, 2021 at 03:37 PM



PC

“ *Peggy and I attended (endured ?) many a PTA meeting together beginning at Indian Springs Elementary in the early '80's, when her Brady and my Rachell were students there. She was a hard worker with a quick wit and easy smile. I miss those days and I shall miss Peggy. My deepest condolences to the family. Phylis Crook*

Phylis Crook - December 18, 2020 at 10:42 AM

JC

“Peggy embodied it all. Wit, grace, intelligence, a realistic view of the world and most importantly a great sense of caring and love. She was immensely proud of her children, deservedly so. Having known Peggy for most of my life, all of my memories with her bring a smile to my face. Sending love and strength to Brady, Julie, Jerry, Nancy and Mark.

Jane Sherzer Cissell - December 18, 2020 at 09:32 AM

LB

“My heartfelt sympathies to her sister, Nancy Plant, and all of Peggy's remaining family, for your loss. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Peggy personally, but I know how much she means to her sister, Nancy. Blessings, Lisa Burkhardt

Lisa T Burkhardt - December 17, 2020 at 03:34 PM

JH

“Peggy was my first cousin once removed. I remember her and her family being present at clan gatherings. We come from the same lineage - loving and dedicated ancestors. To those who have gone before us, let us give to them for their contributions to our lives.



John P Hefter - December 16, 2020 at 11:01 AM

NB

“ I am proud to have had Peggy as a friend for more than 20 years. She was a humanitarian who bettered peoples’ lives. There is no more noble legacy. Most of all, I enjoyed her wry sense of humor, her keen intelligence, and her selflessness. Nadine Block

Nadine Block - December 15, 2020 at 11:24 AM

DC

“ I was fortunate enough to volunteer with Peggy at United Way Central, Ohio. Peggy inspired so many with her tireless work advocating for children. I will deeply miss her!
Debbie Charna

Debbie Charna - December 14, 2020 at 04:43 PM

CM

“ I had the great fortune of working with Peggy during her Ohio Children’s Foundation days. She was an absolute treasure and such a joy to be with. My deepest condolences to Julie, Brady and all her family.

Carolyn McCall - December 14, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LA

“ God Bless you Peggy. You will be missed.

Lou Ann - December 14, 2020 at 10:29 AM

PW

“ Peggy was a champion for Appalachian Ohio and the public humanities -- a mentor to all who came within her orbit. She will be deeply missed by the staff of Ohio Humanities.

Pat Williamsen - December 14, 2020 at 09:30 AM