

2024 Ageless Award Honoree



Peggy Konzack

Ruth “Peggy” (Fuehr) Konzack of Roseburg will celebrate her 103rd birthday on June 5, 2024. Born in Los Angeles, California, on June 5, 1921, Peggy and her husband Clayton grew up in Montana; she in Butte and he in Missoula. They first met as high school teenagers attending a Seventh-Day Adventist youth camp in 1937. She and Clayton, who passed away in 2021 at the age of one hundred, were married on September 14, 1942, and were together for nearly seventy-nine years.

Peggy completed courses at a beauty college in Butte and was a homemaker raising their two daughters, Carol and Sharon. She sewed for the family, worked a garden with Clayton, and annually canned hundreds of jars of fruits and vegetables. Through the years, the family and their friends were active with outdoor activities such as boating and water skiing, camping, snowmobiling, and traveling. The family moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1944 and then to Prineville, where she taught grades one to three in a one-room schoolhouse, and her husband served as principal and taught grades six through nine. They moved to Roseburg in 1945. She has been a lifelong active member of the Better Life Seventh Day Adventist Church in Roseburg, where she and her husband served in nearly every church office.

Enjoying water sports since she swam with her high school swim club, Peggy began teaching swimming lessons in 1968 at the YMCA of Douglas County. When she asked to get formal training, she was told she was too old at forty-eight. But she didn’t let that stop her, and she took a lifeguard training course in Sutherlin on her own and received her certification to teach swimming at all levels and abilities.

For the past twenty-five years, her primary focus has been on young children. These days, she focuses on teaching parent-child water exploration classes with children as young as six months old. In more cases than she can count, she has taught the children of parents whom she also instructed when they were children.

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Roger Tofte

Roger Tofte, born in 1930 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, moved to Oregon when he was five years old. He graduated from Silverton High School, then went on to serve in the Navy during the Korean War. After the war, he married Mavis Bjorke in 1954, and a few years later, Roger took a job with the Oregon State Highway Department as a draftsman and artist.

In the 1960s, now the father of four young children, Roger formulated the idea for a theme park where he could use his creative talents. With little time and money, he persisted to make his dream a reality. He purchased the original twenty acres of land off I-5 in 1964 and began construction one bag of cement at a time. He repaired watches in his spare time to help finance his project and worked on building the park after work and on weekends. The Tofte's backyard became filled with storybook figures and small buildings as Roger used every spare second at home to work on his vision.

Many didn't believe in Roger's dream, including several banks, but one bank finally took a chance. On August 8, 1971, Roger and his wife Mavis hung a piece of butcher paper saying "OPEN" on the fence, and the first visitors entered the park. There were seventy-five people on the first day and one-thousand people the following Sunday. The Enchanted Forest was finally a reality.

Over the years, Roger and his family have been adding to the dream. From new themed sections of the park to animatronics to rides and live shows, the Tofte family's creativity is seemingly limitless. Also limitless is the love that the greater Oregon community feels for the Enchanted Forest. So much so that when the park was in financial distress due to the pandemic and extensive damage after ice storms, over eight thousand donors helped keep the doors open.

The Enchanted Forest has plans for future creations. Roger says, "There is no shortage of ideas, just time and money. We believe in attention to artistic detail. We want to offer our visitors something unique, with a lot of variety. We strive to be the hidden gem that people discover as their own special place."

With four generations of the Tofte family working at the Enchanted Forest today, the tradition and creativity will continue for many years.

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Kay Toran

Raised in Portland's predominantly African American community, Kay was one of four children of Ben and Mary Rose Dean, successful entrepreneurs who moved to the Northwest during the Great Migration. Her parents founded a small business, Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, which is still owned and operated by a family member and is the oldest African-American-owned business in Oregon.

Kay graduated from the University of Portland with a BA in sociology/psychology, then continued her education at Portland State University, earning an MSW from the School of Social Work. After working as an assistant professor for Portland State University, Kay began her career in public service, holding several management positions for the state of Oregon, including six years as the director of Oregon's Child Welfare Agency and seven years as the director of Oregon's Affirmative Action Office under Governor Vic Atiyeh.

Kay is currently the president and CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon, where she has been at the helm for over twenty years. This Oregon VOA affiliate, which has operated for over 125 years, provides impactful, outcomes-based programs designed to help improve the lives of children, families, and seniors.

Kay has had the great honor of receiving numerous awards during her career, such as an honorary doctorate from the University of Portland, the Urban Pioneer Award from Portland State University, the CEO of the Year for Non-Profits from the Portland Business Journal, Ecumenist of the Year Award from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Award for Excellence from the State Management Association of the State of Oregon, the Vic Atiyeh Award for Excellence in Education from Concordia University, and the Sandra McDonough Leadership Award from the Portland Business Alliance. Mayor Sam Adams also named a "Kay Toran Appreciation Day" to acknowledge her leadership contributions to the community. Kay's community service has included serving on several non-profit boards of directors, including the Board of Regents of the University of Portland.

Kay is the proud mother of two adult children and delights in being a grandmother of four.

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Julie Vigeland

Julie is well-known throughout the state of Oregon and nationwide for more than fifty years of civic involvement, especially her advocacy and passion for the arts.

Julie is a past president and active board member emeritus at Portland Center Stage, The Multnomah Athletic Foundation, and the Portland Parks Foundation. She recently served as vice chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), based in Washington, D.C., and currently heads their nominating committee. Before NASAA, Julie was appointed by two governors to terms on the Oregon Arts Commission, where she served as chair for three years.

Julie is currently serving as the co-development chair for the Willamette Falls Trust. Additionally, she continues her thirty-plus-year position as a trustee for the Jackson Foundation and is a senior fellow of the American Leadership Forum. She is a past recipient of the Marylhurst University Women of Distinction Award, the March of Dimes' White Rose Award - Oregon Women of Achievement, Oregon College of Art and Craft's Jo Groves Award for Service to the College, Model of Success Award by Dress for Success, and Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser for the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Over the years, Julie has served on numerous boards, including the following for which she served as chair: Women's Care Foundation, Portland Civic Theatre, Grantmakers of Oregon and SW Washington, and the Portland 5 Foundation (previously Friends of the Performing Arts Center).

Julie taught high school English following her graduation from Portland State University. She is an avid synchronized swimmer and competes for the Multnomah Athletic Club's champion synchro-masters team. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Ted, and is the mother of two adult children and grandmother to six grandchildren.