

KATHLEEN WILLGOHS



Kathleen “Kathy” Elizabeth Donovan Willgohs, 80, formerly of Callahan, a beloved mother, wife, sister and friend, passed away peacefully Monday, October 28, 2024. She was born February 3, 1944, in Zanesville, Ohio, to the late Richard E. Donovan and Anna Deptula Donovan. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister Barbara Ries; and brother Richard Donovan.

Kathy married Robert “Bob” Alan Willgohs February 20, 1965, after their paths crossed while she was working at a jewelry store owned by Bob’s aunt and uncle. Together, they embarked on a beautiful journey, living in Ohio, California, Florida and Virginia, while raising their three children: Ann Marie, John Robert and Carol Lyn.

Kathy was a massage therapist who found joy in helping others through her work. She was an adventurous soul, with a love for the outdoors, gardening, kayaking, traveling and camping. One memorable moment from a three-week trip from Ohio to California highlights her playful nature. It was Kathy’s first attempt at driving the motorhome. They were nearing a truck stop and as she was traveling down the off-ramp, Bob reminded her that motorhomes don’t stop like cars do. In response, Kathy pressed hard on the brakes, sending her family and their belongings flying forward; cabinets swung open, and the floor became littered with various items. When the motorhome came to a stop, John emerged from the bathroom holding an entire medicine cabinet and asked, “What do I do with this?” The moment sparked laughter that captured the essence of Kathy – an ability to find joy even in chaos. Through all her trials, Kathy had an uninhibited sense of humor that she held onto to the end.

At the age of 40, Kathy’s longtime dream came true when she got her first horse, Bergie. This opened the door to years of new experiences, traveling to new places, leisure riding and competitive trail riding, even once claiming the title of Grand Champion. She carried on these passions with Bergie for 25 years, but shared that loved with other horses, Maya, Bear (who preceded her in death in June), and more. Along with the horses, there was always a gaggle of cats, dogs, and chickens.

Kathy leaves behind a loving legacy to cherish her memory, husband of 59 years, Robert “Bob” Alan Willgohs; children Ann Marie (Kyle) Bradley, John Robert (Erin) Willgohs and Carol Lyn (Will) Nolan; grandchildren Stephen (Laura), Matt, Josh, Michael, Jacob, Aaron (Allie) and Caelyn; and great-grandchildren Cameron, with one on the way, Ellie.