

# *Susan “Suzy” Virginia Hay*

## *Nov. 18, 1941 - Feb. 4, 2024*

**S**usan “Suzy” Virginia Hay passed on Feb. 4, 2024, at Wrangell’s Long-Term Care with a family member at her side.

Suzy was 83 years old and had begun to reminisce about friends and family who had passed on in recent years and some long ago. She knew she would see them again, and was looking forward to that.

Suzy was born in Bakersfield, California, to Joyce and Virginia Hay on Nov. 18, 1941, joining her older brother Mike. They lived in Bakersfield until 1945, when the family chose to move to Wrangell. Our mother’s brother Uncle Tom lived in Wrangell. He was a fisherman. He told them, “You can live off the land!” In 1951 another daughter, Georgia, joined the family.

Wrangell remained Suzy’s beloved home — even with the years spent apart, Wrangell was it.

She attended Wrangell Public Schools through high school, graduating with honors in 1960.

One of her favorite honors was when the Alaska Sportsman magazine featured Suzy and the moose she had bagged up the river. The article and picture were titled, “Suzy gets her moose.” This was in the fall of 1960. Suzy was 18 and received many letters, including



Susan “Suzy” Virginia Hay

several marriage proposals!

In the late fall of 1960, Suzy married Charles Merle Stewart. They spent their married years living in Mill City, Oregon, a beautiful small town heading up into the Oregon Cascade Mountains. Suzy and Merle had four children: Kristi Merle, Susan Denise, Michael Hay and Sara Virginia. They had three beautiful grandchildren: Georgia, Samantha and Tanner.

As children grew up, Suzy attended Chemeketa College in Salem Oregon, graduating with a

nursing degree. She began working at Santiam Memorial Hospital in Stayton, Oregon. Suzy loved Oregon! But she missed Wrangell!

In the 1970s, Suzy moved back home for good. She began working at Wrangell General Hospital.

She loved adventure and treasured the beauty of life, the camaraderie of old friends and new, whether traveling to Terrace, British Columbia, to attend the music festival; sitting on the Blue Bird with Ginny and the “gals” watching for the moose and the moose hunters; sitting around a bonfire with family and friends — guitars playing and all but a few singing out of tune with a glass of champagne in hand.

Suzy loved being on the water, with everything it offered — the beauty, the freedom, the sounds of the boat motor, the Stikine River, Telegraph Creek, trips into Shakes and LeConte.

Her favorite was fishing the ocean of Southeast with her partner.

She was home. She is home.

Thank you Doug for all the joy you brought to Suzy these past few years.

Thank you Long-Term Care. You guys were awesome.

*Suzy’s family.*