



A Remembrance of Rosalie Calhoun

May 4, 1949—December 16, 2024



Rosalie Julia Calhoun was born on North Island in 1949, the second of three children born to William Lowndes Calhoun and Rosalie Oneschuk Calhoun. Her father was a career navy man who met her mother, of Russian descent, while they were both serving during World War II—he as a U.S. Naval officer, she as an officer in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps.

Rosalie graduated from Coronado High School with the Class of 1967 then went on to attend Mills College. In 1982, Rosie earned a Bachelor Degree from California State University Hayward.

As with many of us, Rosie learned to love all things British, including the bright red Austin-Healey she drove. Lifelong friend, Margo Vigelis-Duarte, recalls the night she and Rosie baked a cake to give to the Beatles in celebration of their 1964 concert at Balboa Stadium.



Close friend Pilar Marquez-Straw also remembered Rosie's fascination with that era of rock & roll. Pilar relates, "She worked for a time in Palo Alto, near a club, the Keystone Palo Alto, where rock artists frequently performed. She got to see lots of famous artists during that period in her life."

The great great-granddaughter of John C. Calhoun, Vice-president to John Quincy Adams, and daughter of honored Admiral William "Billy" Calhoun—an invaluable contributor to the success in the War in the Pacific during World War II—Rosie charted her own course in public service logging more than 35 years of work in the U.S. Government taking on roles ranging from Administrative Technician for the U.S.

Geological Survey to Revenue Agent for the Internal Revenue Service. In each of those posts, Rosie used her caring disposition as well as her keen inter-personal skills to cultivate the teamwork necessary to accomplish the job at hand, always winning friends and admirers along the way.

Yet Rosie started her public service even earlier when, at the age of 14, she was invited to christen the nuclear-powered submarine, the James Madison-class USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN-630) in Newport News VA thus becoming an honorary crew-member for life. This experience afforded Rosie the opportunity to become active in the Society of Sponsors of the USN, an organization which she served throughout her life, at one point serving as society president.

Pre-deceased by her father and mother, Rosie is survived by her siblings as well as nieces and nephews. Rosie is dearly missed by her family and many close friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made, "In Memory of Rosalie J. Calhoun," to the Society of Sponsors of the U.S. Navy, 322 N. Columbus Street, Alexandria VA 22314.

You can find an obituary for Rosie, wonderfully written by fellow Islander Joe Ditler, at the Coronado Eagle & Journal website here: [Rosalie J Calhoun](#)

Sources: Rosie's family and friends.