



Carol Palmore

January 13, 1949 - December 6, 2015

Carol Palmore died peacefully at home in Frankfort on Sunday, December 6, 2015. Survivors include her husband of 34 years, former Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John S. Palmore, her sister, Robin Pate, step-granddaughter Julie Palmore Williams, Julie's husband Will and their daughters, Lili and Dorsey Williams. She was preceded in death by a brother, Leonard Pate.

Carol was born January 13, 1949 in Owensboro, the daughter of P. J. and Carrie Pate. She was a 1971 graduate of Murray State University and completed her law degree at the University of Kentucky in 1977.

Immediately after passing the bar exam, she became an associate with the Owensboro law firm of Rummage, Kamuf and Yewell. She was the only female attorney in Owensboro at that time, foreshadowing her future career, in which she often became the first or the only female to hold various offices or positions.

A consummate public servant, Carol first began her career as a state social worker and later went on to serve in cabinet level positions under four Kentucky Governors. She served as Labor Secretary under Governors Martha Layne Collins, Wallace Wilkinson and Brereton Jones. And then she served as Secretary of Personnel under Governor Paul Patton, a post from which she

retired in 2003. In every position, she was respected and revered by her staff, her colleagues, and leaders in both the executive and legislative branches.

Carol was long active in the Democratic Party and a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of numerous candidates for public office. She herself ran for Secretary of State in 1995, and most recently was serving as a member of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee.

Her dedication to community service was demonstrated in the numerous boards and committees on which she served, including the Frankfort Rotary Club, where she served as President, The Kentucky Women's Leadership Network Board, and her service as President of the Kentucky Bar Foundation.

A devoted wife, loving sister, and dear and loyal friend to countless individuals, Carol Palmore was an inspiration to everyone she touched. Her effervescent personality lit up the room whenever she was present and her generosity of spirit made a lasting mark on all who knew her.

There will be no public service. Memorial gifts may be made to the Franklin County Humane Society, 1041 Kentucky Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601. The family requests no flowers.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home. Condolences may be shared via the online guest book at www.harrodbrothers.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Palmore*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *John, Robin and family. I am so sorry for your loss. As we all know, Carol was special. She had the ability to connect with everyone she encountered. I miss her terribly.*

Nancy Wilson - December 15, 2015 at 10:45 PM



“ *Judge Palmore - I worked with Carol in Owensboro - my first work in a law office. She was such a joy and bright spot in my day and so wonderful to work with. We shared many moments and stories and, even though I had not seen her in quite some time, she always held a special place in my heart. Prayers for you as you grieve.*

Susan White - December 15, 2015 at 07:55 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to all of the family. Carol was such a lovely person, and we couldn't have asked for a better neighbor. We cherish our friendship with her and the Judge, and we will always remember her with great fondness.*

Steve and Kathy Gale - December 13, 2015 at 02:06 PM

JL

“ Carol and I were friends through church and school in Owensboro. Carol and the Pate family included me in their skiing and camping trips and made me feel very special. I have always remembered her fondly.

Junella McConnell Lynn - December 11, 2015 at 03:58 PM

SL

“ My deepest sympathy to all of Carol's family and friends. I haven't seen Carol in a very long, but have counted her as a friend since high school. She has left many goals which let women know what they can do.
God bless Carol.

Sandra Baird Lucas - December 11, 2015 at 01:30 PM

TL

“ *Palmore family-*

Sorry to hear about Carol..she and I worked together in the Food Stamp Office in Owensboro back in the 70's..I was proud of her getting her law degree and attended several classes she gave about the law here in Owensboro..I'll keep her in my thoughts and prayers..

Tom Luckett - December 10, 2015 at 11:57 AM

RW

“ There are no words to express the sadness of a loss like this. I have some sense of it since I had to put Sharon in the nursing home this year. Carol was such a vital and engaging person who always brightened up everyone she met. Please except my deepest sympathy. Richard

Richard Waitman - December 09, 2015 at 12:26 PM

NM

“ You will always be one of the most wonderful friends I have ever known. You truly were a remarkable person with each and every life you touched. I'm so glad you found happiness with John, the love of your life. Rest in peace my friend.
Nancy

Nancy Sterett Martin - December 09, 2015 at 04:32 AM

SH

“ Judge Palmore and the rest of Carol's family. I'm sure I can't say anything that you don't already know or have already heard someone else say. But Carol was absolutely one of the finest people I have ever had the pleasure of working for. She taught me so much and I will never forget her. She was truly a leader, a role model, an inspiration, a fair and honest person but most of all, she made everyone around her feel like they were very important to her. Her smile and laugh would make your worst day better. Kentucky has truly lost a great person. Judge Palmore you are certainly in my prayers. RIP Madame Secretary.

Sharley Hughes - December 08, 2015 at 03:50 PM

DM

“ *RIP my oldest and dearest friend. I was always told the Pates, Leonards, & Maglingers were all kin. I am sure that's not true but I ignored the facts and believed it anyway. Loved you forever.*

Danny Maglinger - December 07, 2015 at 08:03 PM

CF

“ *I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences for your loss and the departure of a truly wonderful spirit. I served under Carol in Personnel during the Patton Administration. Carol was the commensurate leader who exuded confidence, was always personable, caring and approachable. I joined the cabinet after a long military career and she was by far the best leader I’ve ever had in any capacity. I’ll never forget her leadership, wit and savvy. I’m proud to have called her a colleague and friend.*

Carl Felix - December 07, 2015 at 07:57 PM

BH

“ *Gerri and I worked very closely with Carol when she served the Commonwealth as Secretary of Personnel under Governor Patton and as a trustee of the KRS board. Carol was an especially effective trustee, and worked tirelessly in and out of legislative sessions in aide to the many public employees and retirees whose interests in retirement are of paramount importance. She served other state and local committees of various civic importance. Carol will be missed by the so many lives she has touched.*

Bill and Gerri Hanes - December 07, 2015 at 06:51 PM



“ We will really miss Carol in our neighborhood coming to find Happy and the other labs she and the Judge have owned. Our prayers go out to her family.

Eddie and Charlene Gregory

Charlene Gregory - December 07, 2015 at 04:40 PM