

Sandra (Garrard) Jacobs

Sandra Carol Garrard was born on January 20, 1942 to Frank and Betty Garrard in Covington, KY. Her family, seeking business opportunities in the expanding aerospace industry, packed their 1952 Chrysler and headed west. She entered the newly constructed El Segundo Junior High in 1954 and graduated from El Segundo High School in 1960. She attended University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and graduated in 1964, earning a BA in Group Work and Recreation and Elementary Education. She met her husband Karl while at UOP, whom she married in 1964. After residing in Stockton, Phoenix, and Reseda, Sandy & Karl returned to El Segundo in 1981 to help her mother with the family's welding supply business. Their daughter Jennifer Jacobs graduated from ESHS in 1987 and their grandson Jacob Levy followed her in 2014.

Sandy entered the El Segundo Business Community as owner of a Hallmark store, House of Cards, and opened a second location in Mariposa Village. She also served as President of South Bay Welders Supply, Inc. and co-owned Pinsational with Karl, a jewelry and cloisonné pin company.

Serving as the first female President of the El Segundo Chamber of Commerce from 1989-1990 and again from 1993-1994, she coordinated efforts of the organization's many committees with successes in the areas of Chamber/Local Government relations and Economic Development. In 1996, 200 years after the election of her Great-Grandfather James Garrard as 2nd Governor of Kentucky, Sandy was elected to the El Segundo City Council and served as the first female Mayor from 1996-1998 and Mayor Pro-tem from 1998-2004. Before, during, and after serving on city council, she played a vital role in the Downtown revitalization project, mural program, and downtown signage initiative.

Sandy lived her life in service to others. In college she was a camp counselor for the Girl Scouts. After college she taught autistic children for her first job, and always volunteered at her daughter's schools. She served on the boards and had leadership positions in many groups, including: El Segundo United Methodist Church, El Segundo Job's Daughters, The Library Expansion Board, Business & Professional Women, Quota Club, El Segundo Rotary Club, El Segundo Economic Development Committee and The Switzer Learning Center.

Sandy was a recipient of many awards and accolades during her life, including Business & Professional Woman of the Year (1989), South Bay Woman of the Year (1999), American Heart Association Community Chair Award (2002), El Segundo Citizen of the Year (2013) and El Segundo Alumni Hall of Fame (2017).

Both Sandy and Karl spent many years traveling to Guaymas, Mexico with the Sister City program where they made life-long friends and donated their time to the local community. On one of the trips, Sandy brought loads of fabric and taught sewing classes to groups of women. Along with the Rotary Club and the City of El Segundo, she helped deliver sports uniforms, playground equipment, and even a fire truck donated by the City. She and Karl had a particular fondness contributing to Castaway Kids, an organization in Guaymas that assists with education and housing for children and families.

In retirement, she served as Past President Advisor to the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and regularly attended weekly Rotary Meetings. Sandy was a life-long crafter who loved to sew, knit, crochet, and quilt and loved to give away her creations. She was an avid reader who enjoyed spending time on her deck, ensuring her garden was a sanctuary for monarch butterflies.

In 2007 she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and remained active despite her limitations. Sandy is survived by her husband Karl Jacobs, daughter Jennifer Jacobs, grandson Jacob Levy, brother Elwyn Garrard and his partner Kit Kerwick, along with family members residing in California, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

A celebration of life service will be held on February 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church 540 Main St. El Segundo with a reception following at Chevron Park. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to: Castaway Kids, Inc. c/o Carole Dance, 346 S. Abrego Dr., Green Valley, AZ 85614.