



BEATRICE ANN (PARKS) KABLER

Beatrice Ann (Parks) Kabler, age 94, died at her home in Green Valley, Arizona on July 28, 2022.

Beatrice Kabler was born and raised in Oklahoma. She attended nursing school at the University of Kansas where she met and married medical student JD Kabler. She and JD lived in Norfolk, Virginia for his Navy stint and her work in the hospital maternity unit. In 1954 the Kablers moved to Madison, Wisconsin where they raised five children and resided until Dr. Kabler's death in 1995. Mrs. Kabler relocated to Arizona in 2008.

Mrs. Kabler championed and lobbied for many civic and social causes. Notably, she joined the Martin Luther King, Jr. march from Selma to Montgomery

in 1965. She worked tirelessly for women's reproductive rights, founding Wisconsin Citizens for Family Planning and serving on the national board of Planned Parenthood. She was instrumental in the repeal of antiquated restrictive birth control laws in Wisconsin in 1976. She served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors from 1976-1982 and lobbied for the Madison Equal Opportunity Ordinance, Wisconsin Citizens for Fair Housing, and helped to open the first Wisconsin shelter for battered women. In 2003, she received the Swarsenky Humanitarian Service Award for contributions to improve race relations, women's health, conservation and public service.

Mrs. Kabler believed in life-long learning and enjoyed many personal passions, especially traveling. She took her children on road trips each summer to see much of the United States. Later she traveled extensively internationally, enjoying birding and cultural immersion on all seven continents and more than half the countries in the world. Even into her 90s she was still passionate about travel and joined her daughters on adventures around the U.S.

As an avid birder, she

was especially proud to be member #9 of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin which works worldwide to conserve cranes and their habitats.

Plants and gardening were also significant in Kabler's life. She saved protected plants from bulldozers in Madison by converting much of her yard in Madison into a natural prairie and a wildflower garden. She studied and received her Master Gardener Certification from the University of Arizona at age 81 and volunteered at the Pima County Native Plant Nursery to support the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Quilting was another passion for Kabler. She designed and made dozens of beautiful hand-stitched quilts, joined the Green Valley Quilt Sewciety, the AAUW Needles group, and the Arizona Quilt Documentation Project cataloging hundreds of quilts to preserve their history.

Along with all her causes and hobbies she found time to volunteer at the Arizona State Museum, host "ladies luncheons" and foreign foods dinner parties, make marmalade and pecan pies for friends, play Mah Jongg, create beaded bookmarks for fundraisers, attend opera and theater performanc-

es, and make new friends everywhere she went.

Frequently referred to by others as a "force of nature," Kabler has left an enduring legacy due to her many contributions throughout her life. In recent years, she rarely missed a chance to join a corner protest to promote a cause and was recognized as an AAUW Honored Member in 2019-2020.

She was preceded in death by her husband, JD Kabler, M.D., her brother M. Douglas Parks, Jr., and her son Steven Kabler. Surviving relatives include children Claudia Kabler-Babbitt (John Babbitt), Melanie Kabler (Charles Wilber), Gretchen Kabler, and Stuart Kabler (Liz Bacon), along with five grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Gathering is planned for Sunday, August 21, in Green Valley. Please contact the family for details. In lieu of flowers, contributions made be made in Beatrice Kabler's memory to either of the following organizations:

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc
302 N Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI 53202

The International Crane Foundation
E11376 Shady Lane
Road
Baraboo, WI 53913