

Memories of Kay Thompson

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I, too, met Kay decades ago as a young adolescent. I mused over her unusual and gentle blend of strength and tenderness. The intrigue of that impression never left me; over the years I have continued to marvel at her poise and leadership, tempered with a lithe and graceful sensitivity.

Professionally incisive, personally true, she presented a regal dignity. Her clarity of spirit and preciseness of both words and actions delineated directions for those in alliance with professional missions and offered guidance for those less familiar with such issues. Thus she found herself, at all times, surrounded by colleagues, and by newcomers to professional arenas, all of whom benefitted from her swift insights. Her own paths were chosen unfalteringly from a commitment to the common good and a desire to protect the public.

She was blessed in marriage with a long partnership with Ralph Krichbaum. His support and encouragement of her professional endeavors, along with their reciprocal admiration and respect provided a tangible reflection of a marriage united in values.

Her personal life complemented her professional idealism. Anyone who visited her home was aware she collected elephant figurines. On my own visit, I gazed over the vast collection of elephants, noting the countless variations and multitude of media, some static while others were filled with motion. She explained that the herd provided an ongoing source of enjoyment. With her comments, the display case of figurines was transformed into an expression of creative elements of mankind: awe inspiring in its artistic reaches. Kay added that after visiting her home, people would reflect on their visit whenever they saw elephants in the future. Silently, I considered that only a svelte and graceful woman would choose to associate with elephants. It was true; I never see an elephant without thinking of her.

One expression of Kay's personal tenderness was her dog rescue ventures. In a sensible and socially responsible manner, Kay and Ralph rescued a succession of dogs, who by chance and fate, had been left homeless in adulthood. Anyone who has participated in this activity is well aware that some pets are easy to adapt

while others require unending patience and perseverance. She and Ralph worked tirelessly with their charges, being rewarded time and again with successful outcome.

That gentle sensitivity, so dominant in her personal and professional life brought rewards to all around her. We are blessed to have shared her friendship.