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Tribute to Leonora Casey

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On December 17, 2019, Leonora Kathleen Casey, a colleague and a dear friend of ARMA Calgary chapter and ARMA Canada completed her 'adventure' (as Leonora called it) after battling with pancreatic cancer. Leonora was surrounded by love, warmth, family and prayers.

Born in Brandon, MB, Leonora was the younger sister to two older brothers. She was predeceased by both her parents and one brother.

Leonora spent 25 years of her working life in Calgary. It was there that she became a very active member of the Calgary chapter of ARMA International. Leonora served in many capacities on its Board of Directors, including chapter President. She went on to serve on the ARMA Canada team and was its first webmaster. She was also a contributor and supporter of the ARMA International Education Foundation (AIEF).

Leonora took pride in chronicling achievements and events of ARMA Canada and the chapters across Canada and posting them on the ARMA Canada web site. Her efforts as webmaster earned her the first "Webmaster of the Year" award by ARMA International.

Through her association with ARMA International, we got to know Leonora at a professional and personal level.

“Leonora and I served on the board of the ARMA Calgary chapter in the early 1990s. As a board member, Leonora demonstrated her leadership skills, was conscientious and meticulous when it came to work ethics and was a strong supporter of the initiatives undertaken by the chapter. Outside of ARMA, Leonora enjoyed fun and adventure. The year-end board socials that she so graciously hosted at her home were fun events. The hours of chatter and laughter over good food and drinks were evenings that I will fondly remember, although it scared the heck out of her feline children.

Early last year, Leonora and her partner, Stuart, undertook one of the ‘greatest of adventures’ - a three-month drive across Canada in their motorhome, and visiting with friends and family along the way. Reconnecting with Leonora during her stop in Calgary in August 2019 was an absolute joy. It was just like the good old days! She was eager to show us her e-bike, gave us a tour of Fred, her motorhome, and shared with us the many adventures during their trip across Canada.”

(Gita Werapitiya)

“Leonora was a kind soul. In addition to serving together on the ARMA Calgary Board, I had a relationship with Leonora that was very meaningful to me, but more importantly, helped me take a giant step into an enjoyable time of ARMA service. When I was a newbie to the Board of ARMA Calgary, Leonora recognized a real greenhorn when she started working with me on ARMA matters. Here is how she very kindly and diplomatically helped me advance from greenhorn to useful ARMA volunteer. She would ask me to come early to a meeting or event on a pretense, usually going over numbers or finances from the membership portfolio that I was working on, and then she would prod me to ask questions about how things worked in ARMA Calgary. Leonora shared her experiences as a new volunteer and about how to work with the Board as a whole and individuals on the Board whose style and manner were often downright puzzling! She was generous with advice

and anecdotes and we had many laughs together as she helped me adjust to the workings of the Calgary Chapter.

(Patricia Hirsche)

"I first met Leonora when I was a member of the ARMA Canada region team. I was on an ARMA official visit to the Calgary chapter, and participated in a chapter workshop as well as meeting with the Board. I remember that Leonora had lots of ideas and contributed well to discussions in the meetings.

Most memorable of all, however, was her departure when she left our supper meeting, beautifully dressed in business attire (including high heeled shoes), zipping away on her Vespa scooter. Following on that first impression of her, I remember that she always made a fashion statement and took notice of design and colour in her surroundings. Spending time with her at a conference was always an education about the city we were in, it's history, and other relevant information. As I got to know her more, she revealed that her past had included time in the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as diverse experience in records and information management.

She was quick to pick up on technology and provided good support for the first ARMA Canada website. Her move to Vancouver Island, to the Victoria region, was Calgary's loss and the Vancouver Island chapter's gain. As a member of the Local Conference committee for the ARMA Canada conference in Nanaimo, 2012, she discovered such local delights as the "Nanaimo Bar Trail" and made sure that every delegate received a Nanaimo bar soap in their delegates' bag. Following her retirement from the Government of British Columbia's Information Management branch, she was happy to enjoy the boating and recreational opportunities that the island provided for her and Stuart. She lived well, if too short a life. I wish now that I had spent more time with her here on the coast, she seemed so young and with so much life ahead. Cancer is not fair....

(Alexandra (Sandie) Bradley)

I first met Leonora at a Canadian Conference in 1995 in Calgary where she was part of the organizing committee. We were there to “watch and learn” as we were given the task of organizing the next one in my hometown. Leonora was someone you could connect with if you had any questions and would be the first to offer anything from templates, content to advice to help us on our way. We stayed connected throughout our professional relationship though thousands of kilometers away.

When I became Region Manager of ARMA Canada, I had to select and appoint people to fill many roles and Leonora not only took on webmaster but looked after our financial business for a time until we could appoint a person responsible. The Canadian Team loved her diligence and commitment to ARMA Canada. Even after retirement we kept in touch and Bernita Cogswell and I got to spend a day with Leonora and Stuart (or Salty, as she referred him as) on their Canada wide trek this past June. A marvelous reunion that I am so thankful to this day for the time we spent together.

(Pat Burns)

“Please do not stand there weeping, remember with joy, remember the humour and remember the music.” These were Leonora’s parting wishes to her friends.

Let’s keep Leonora in our thoughts and prayers as she continues on her next ‘adventure’!