



Julie Keil born July 25, 1957 in Euclid Ohio passed away November 24, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Peter Sweeney, and daughters Kristin and Caitlin of Portland, and brother Cliff of Quito, Ecuador.

On the day after her nineteenth birthday, in 1976, Julie was run over and nearly killed by a children's roller coaster ride at ValleyFair Amusement Park, where she was working a summer job. Despite multiple cardiac arrests, Julie survived. While enduring multiple surgeries during the next few years, she attended the University of Minnesota, graduating Phi Beta Kappa (Junior Year) and magna cum laude in March of 1980 with a B.A. degree in History. At the time of the accident, Julie planned to be an elementary school teacher. Various tests during her lengthy rehabilitation indicated, however, that she had an aptitude for law.

The day Mt. St. Helen's began steaming, Julie and Peter, now her soon to be husband, moved to Oregon, where, with Minnesota's financial support she enrolled in the Northwestern School of Law, where she completed her J.D. in 1983. Peter and Julie were married in 1981.

Before retiring at the end of 2013, Julie worked for PGE for 29 years, as the Director of Hydro Relicensing for the last 22 years. Her mantra was "under promise and over perform." Because she held herself and every one she worked with to this standard, Julie had the rare ability to take a room full of disparate and dissenting individuals, and

create a community working toward a common goal that they hadn't previously even known that they shared. More than this, she had the ability to get – and to recognize – the best effort from all participants, and, because she believed this, to make each feel as though he or she was making an essential contribution to the group effort.

Using that talent, she succeeded in achieving settlements to relicense three of four PGE hydro projects and to accomplish the removal of the Bull Run Project on the Sandy River. Each of these proceedings involved groups of from 10 to 30 state and federal government agencies, Tribes, and environmental groups. At the outset of each proceeding, no one, except Julie, believed that settlement was possible. Yet, it was; and each of these settlements is an enduring legacy to Julie's ability to create community and achieve a goal that met the needs of competing and often antagonistic groups.

Julie's legacy extends far beyond PGE. For 22 years, Julie served on the boards of several organizations, working tirelessly and patiently with all interests to promote hydro power as a responsible steward of the nation's water resources. For five years, from 1993 to 1998, she led a small group of representatives of the hydro industry and environmental groups to define a new licensing process for FERC. While FERC's reaction to this process when it was proposed by NHA was a polite "thanks but no thanks," FERC then

turned around and convened a group of hydro stakeholders to redefine its licensing process. FERC's new process essentially implemented the process that Julie and NHA had proposed five years earlier.

Julie was no stranger to Washington, though she never adopted its ways. She testified before Congress on numerous occasions, and her testimony was always knowledgeable and astonishingly literate, given the audience. On one memorable occasion in 2003, she tangled with Congressman Markey, who seemed determined to pin all of Enron's sins on Julie. She was having none of it, as she made clear on the record, respectfully, but forcefully.

On that same occasion she was written up in the Washington Post for her un-Washingtonian honesty. In a footnote to her NHA testimony that should have been deleted, she questioned a point she was asked to make. As reported in the Washington Post, "Joel, is this critical?" she writes in the footnote. "I think we look foolish whining about a 1% loss. I don't think we have better numbers, but the real issue isn't lost mwh [megawatt hours] . . . but rather the loss of flexibility." Keil, being from Oregon, is unaware that in Washington you're allowed to whine about anything, no matter how small. Part of the local charm.

Of course, though the Washington Post could not know this, the real local charm was that Julie

never whined about anything, in Washington or anywhere else.

Over the years, Julie served as a member of the Board of NHA, was chair of the Regulatory Committee, and was president of NHA from 1997 to 1998. She was awarded the Henwood Award, the highest honor bestowed by the hydro industry, in 2003. Her acceptance speech is pure Julie.

Meeting the challenges facing the hydro industry required NHA and the many stakeholders affected by hydro to discuss and debate issues in which a consensus was not easily reached. Her ability to understand and navigate the tricky politics associated with complex water issues was unparalleled. In these tough situations Julie commanded the respect of her peers, and when Julie spoke, people always listened.

For years, the screen saver on Julie's computer screen read "It's an Honor to Provide for my Family". Her love for her family, family pets, close friends and the value of a liberal arts education was legendary and will always be treasured.

She relieved stress by cooking, visiting the peace and quiet of the beach at Manzanita, gardening, and reading biographies of the Roosevelt family members as well as countless novels, which she discovered on frequent visits to Powell's.

- Tribute by Tom Mark

Julie's Henwood Award Acceptance Speech

Thank you. I've spent almost my entire career doing hydro, and this award means more to me than I can possibly express.

An occasion like this would seem to need fireworks and dragons and wizards and a party. Then I could disappear like Bilbo and go off to the next adventure. But I am not anywhere close to my 111th birthday and thanks to our friends at Enron, I'll never be able to retire. So, unless Representative Markey has something to say about it, you are probably stuck with me for sometime yet to come. This might even be a good thing. Lifetime achievement, or no, I still think there is lots to do.

In times when momentous decisions are being made and people are dying for the principles of this country, it is difficult to remember that that the work we do is important. It is not world peace, it is not defense of democracy, but hydro is a truly indigenous source of energy and our work is work that makes people's lives better. And when we do it right, it is work that leaves a legacy of integrity and principle.

There have been times when I have disagreed strongly with the prevailing sentiment in the industry. So strongly in fact that I have felt as though I must be on the wrong side of the barricades. I suspect that some of you may have felt the same way. I do not believe that dams are forever. I do not believe that licensees have an inherent right to use of the nation's rivers. I do not believe that the status quo is necessarily acceptable.

On the other hand, I do believe that my job is to support those who provide reliable, affordable electricity to peoples' homes and businesses. There is no better way to do this than with hydro. At the same time, I believe that we must provide reliable energy in a way that makes the footprint of energy production on the landscape as small as possible. And, I believe that many people working together are more powerful than one person thinking alone.

Defending hydropower with all my energy and with all my heart is the best way I know to be true to those beliefs. We are privileged guardians of resources that many people hold sacred. Producing energy, while attempting to honor the beliefs of those who hold rivers dear is the most challenging and rewarding work I can imagine. It requires that we constantly seek new understanding, new ways of dealing with those who disagree with us. Along the way, time-honored ways of doing business that we may have considered to be "rules" may be broken, but the fundamental principles remain. And maybe, if we do our job well enough, our opponents will learn that there are problems larger than hydro power.

So I can follow Franklin Roosevelt's advice: "Be sincere, be brief, sit down." I will end with a sincere thank you to those in the industry who have supported me by being there when they thought I was right. And an equally heartfelt "thank you" to those who pointed out when they believed I was wrong.



Julie Keil Memorial Reception
January 31, 2016