

## Judy Orth

GREAT FALLS - Judy Orth, 68, of Great Falls, passed away on September 4, 2018.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 29, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Chapel. A reception will follow at Schnider Funeral Home.

Judy was born September 17, 1950, to David and Vivian (DeRusha) Hannant in Plentywood, MT. As the daughter of a US customs officer and dancer, she spent most her life in Montana. Judy graduated from Great Falls High School in 1968 and earned her radiology technician certificate from Montana Deaconess Hospital in 1970. Soon after, she met USAF Serviceman and husband of 49 years, Jack Orth. Assignments had them move to Germany and South Dakota, where Judy returned to school to become an LPN. In 1986 they returned to Great Falls. Judy was a long-time employee of the Immediate Care Center (Great Falls Clinic) where she retired in 2011.

Although Judy was known for her pretty rose garden, short stature and huckleberry pie, many may not know about her resilience. Her daughter liked to refer to her as the 'little engine that could.' Judy was a true testament to what modern medicine, research, and sheer will can do. During the last 10 years of her life, she fought breast cancer and congestive heart failure. A pacemaker and defibrillator were placed, however, her heart continued to deteriorate. Three and half years ago she was given a second chance at life, with an LVAD implant at the University of Utah. She took pride in teaching others about the LVAD, from speaking at a symposium in Washington DC to letting medical students have a listen to her whirring heart. Judy took command and understanding of her health care-right to the very end.

Judy will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all those whose lives she touched with her garden and warm smile.

"It's not the events in our life that define our character, but how we deal with them."

