

Former mayor of Milwaukie dies

Joy Belle Burgess, the former mayor of Milwaukie, died Saturday of cancer in her Milwaukie home. She was 58.

Funeral will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Peake Memorial Chapel in Milwaukie, with private interment in Willamette National Cemetery.

A native of Portland, Mrs. Burgess was elected to the Milwaukie City Council in 1972. She was re-elected to the council in 1976, and in 1980 she was elected to her first two-year mayoral term.

Although she was re-elected to a second term in 1982, Mrs. Burgess resigned the mayor's post in March 1984 on the advice of her doctor when cancer was diagnosed in her lower back. Previously, she had stayed on the job after surgery and chemotherapy treatments for an apparently unrelated form of cancer in 1983.

While a council member, Mrs. Burgess served on the city budget committee and developed an interest in the transportation needs of area residents. Throughout her tenure, she was a strong advocate of developing a light-rail system between Portland and Milwaukie.

"I tried to be always close to the people and seek out their opinions on issues," she noted in a letter she wrote when applying for a position



JOY BELLE BURGESS
Cancer forced resignation

on the Tri-Met board of directors in 1985.

Mrs. Burgess' involvement in civic affairs began in the 1960s when she served as president of her neighborhood association.

In 1970, the Milwaukie City Council appointed her head of the city's Parks and Beautification Commit-

tee. Spring Creek Park was created by volunteers under her leadership.

The Milwaukie Kiwanis Club gave her the "Bull Frog" award for outstanding community service. She was a member of the MECCA League of Women Voters and the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce, each for seven years, and the Milwaukie Historical Society for 15 years.

Her husband, John, died in 1980. He had helped her in her first successful campaign for mayor, and died shortly after she won.

A graduate of Franklin High School, Mrs. Burgess attended Lewis and Clark College and had more than 400 poems published nationally by Ideals magazine. She started writing as a "Young Oregonian reporter" while still in high school.

She is survived by three daughters, Cathy Doescher and Jeannie Nelson, both of Portland, and Julie Morehouse of Milwaukie; three sons, Jeffrey, David and Randy, all of Milwaukie; her mother, Buelah Marshall of Gladstone; and eight grandchildren.

The family suggests remembrances be contributions to the Joy Burgess Beautification Fund, in care of Milwaukie City Hall, 10722 S.E. Main St., Milwaukie, Ore. 97222.