Honoring My Sisters

One of the gratifying things we do in Saturday Briefing is to report the many fun things that are going on in our company. We note celebrations, community activities, additions to families, promotions, retirements, and awards and honors involving members of our ‘ohana. In that context and tradition, I am especially pleased to report that my sisters, Jean Rolles and Pat Kelley, have both been honored recently for the work they do in the communities where they live.

Jean’s recognition by the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council is described in a separate article beginning on page five.

Pat, who is retired and lives in Oregon, was recently honored by the Oregon Episcopal School (OES) for her dedicated work on behalf of its girls’ school, St. Helen’s Hall.

St. Helen’s Hall (SHH) was established near the center of Portland, Oregon, in 1869 by the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Wistar Morris, the Bishop of Oregon for the Episcopal Church. As the city grew over the century that followed, the campus had to be moved several times. It has been at its current location in Portland’s suburbs since 1964, where it shared the campus with Bishop Dagwell Hall, a newly-formed boys’ school. Eventually the two schools merged in Oregon Episcopal School.

Pat attended St. Helen’s Hall as a boarding student at its previous campus during her junior and senior years of high school and graduated in 1955. Since then, Pat has done any number of things, including being a mother, pilot, quilter, travel agent, genealogist, and wedding planner. She has also battled life-threatening health issues. She is an 18-year cancer survivor and has undergone two open-heart surgeries.

Pat has not forgotten the influence that St. Helen’s Hall has had on her life, and over the years, she has been an important link between the school and the alumnae who graduated in the 1950s. She has spent countless hours tracking down alumnae who had lost touch with the school, and she hosted teas and other gatherings for women who attended the Hall. She also serves on the OES Board of Trustees and is an ambassador for the Annual Fund as the SHH Alumnae Chair, said the school in its newsletter, The Connection. Accordingly, Pat was named a Benjamin Wistar Morris Distinguished Alumna. Fewer than 10 other alumnae hold this prestigious title.

Estelle Louise Kelley, mother of Jean and Pat and co-founder of the Outrigger Enterprises Group, was an exceptionally strong, active lady of many talents. She accomplished many things in a male-dominated world in an era when few women were in the workforce or the world of business. At that time, society typically encouraged young girls to limit their ambitions and focus on being homemakers or, if they were to pursue a career, to become teachers, nurses, or secretaries.

It is not surprising that Estelle’s daughters have both been accomplished, active businesswomen energetically involved in a number of endeavors and generously giving their time and considerable talents to fine community organizations. These apples did not fall very far from the tree.

Congratulations, Jean and Pat. Your older brother is very proud of you both.