

Kathleen Marie Kelly Pozzi Winters

At A Glance:

Born: November 1, 1920, Tacoma, Washington

Died: June 26, 2024, Carson City, Nevada

Maiden Name: Kathleen Marie Kelly

Race/Nationality/Ethnic Background: Caucasian

Married: Archie Henry Pozzi, Oct. 15, 1941,
JohnD Winters, Dec. 29, 1948

Children: Marianne Winters,
Vernalee Winters Correa,
Sheila Winters Ward,
Bruce Pozzi
Kathleen Pozzi Gerber



Kay Winters, abt. 1990s
Photo courtesy Kathie Gerber.

Primary City and County of Residence and Work: Dayton, Lyon County, Nevada and Carson City, Nevada

Major Fields of Work: Volunteer organization leader, including Founding Member of the Carson Tahoe Hospital Auxiliary, Carson City Desert Garden Club, Carson City Ski Program. Long active 4-H Leader, Northern Nevada Girl Scout Council, Boy Scout leader, Lyon County Parks and Recreation Committee, Lyon County Bicentennial Committee. University of Nevada College of Arts and Science Advisory Committee

Other Role Identities: UNR President's Medal 1987, Distinguished Nevadan 1989, Grand Marshal of Dayton Valley Days twice, Nevada Day Grand Marshal 2015, wife and mother

Community volunteer leader contributed to health, education, parks and recreation

Kay Winters was a strong leader for local community organizations in northern Nevada, helping found the Carson Tahoe Hospital and the Carson City Ski Program, among many others.

Kathleen “Kay” Marie Kelly was born on November 1, 1920, in Tacoma, Washington, to Ruth Haslett and Lester Kelly. She was the eldest of the three Kelly children, Kathleen, Robert and Patricia. Kathleen attended Tacoma schools and then entered the University of Washington where she was affiliated with Chi Omega sorority. It was there she met Archie Henry Pozzi, a young student from Carson City, Nev. They were married on October 15, 1941, at the First Congregational Church in Everett, Washington, and relocated immediately to Carson City, Nev.

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed, and Archie Pozzi Jr. went to war, joining the U.S. Navy. During the early years of World War II, the Pozzis became parents to a son, Bruce, in 1942 and a daughter, Kathleen, in 1945. Wartime, however, tends to destroy marriages and the Pozzi marriage suffered that fate.

On December 29, 1948, Kathleen Kelly Pozzi married JohnD Winters at the First Christian Church in Reno, Nev. The newlyweds were now parents to five children: JohnD’s three daughters, ages 12, 9 and 6, and Kay’s two children, ages 6 and 3. Following a two-week honeymoon in the Pacific Northwest, one that included all five children, the family made their home at the Winters ranch on the western edge of Carson City, Nev.

Carson City in the late 1940s was a town with a population under 5,000. There was no hospital and only three physicians available to treat the population. Physician Richard Petty had been enticed to return to Carson City after having served in the war with the promise Carson City would improve its medical facilities. The local physicians along with other civic minded families like the Winters set about to accomplish that. Judge Richard L. Waters and his wife Ethel donated land for a hospital and the community worked to match a donation from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation. In 1949 Carson Tahoe Hospital opened its doors. It was only a ten-bed hospital, but it was a hospital. The cost of this new hospital was \$80,000.

Kay was a community leader for a wide range of organizations. She helped establish the Carson Tahoe Hospital Women’s Auxiliary and in 1953, served as its second president. She became a founding member of the Carson City Desert Garden Club and served as president. Her children were Girl Scouts and Bruce was a Boy Scout and Kay was an active participant in those groups. She helped establish the Carson City Youth Ski Program in the early 1950s in order that her children would have the opportunity to ski. The Winters resided in Carson City until their youngest daughter graduated from high school in 1963.

They then moved to their Santa Maria ranch in Dayton, Nevada where Kay lived for the next 59 years. In Dayton, Kay was a member of the Lyon County Park and Recreation Committee for 12 years and was instrumental in helping establish the Dayton Park system

which includes the “triangle park” as you enter Dayton from Carson City, land for the Little League Park and the Dayton State Park. As a couple she and JohnD donated the land for a high school in Carson City (currently Carson Middle School) and land that is now the JohnD Winters Centennial Park in east Carson City.

From 1972 to 1976, she chaired the Lyon County Bicentennial Committee. She was a member of the Lyon County Library Board and the Historical Society of Dayton Valley.



Kay Winters, Grand Marshal, Nevada Day Parade
Photo by Marcia Cuccaro

In 1987 the University of Nevada awarded her the President’s Medal for her contributions to education. In 1989, the University named her a Distinguished Nevadan and a board member emeritus after her 10-year tenure on the College of Arts and Science Advisory Committee.

She was the Nevada Day Parade Grand Marshal in 2015 for the 150th celebration of Nevada’s Statehood. She is listed in the Women of Diversity’s publication, *Nevada Women’s Legacy – 150 Years of Excellence*.

Kathie Pozzi Gerber remembered her mother as a city girl turned rancher and always a “lady,” always very caring and thoughtful. She felt strongly about giving back to her community and when she identified a need, Kay always found the right people to get it done.

This author was fortunate to know Kay Winters as the mother of my friends while I was growing up, later as my mother’s friend and in the last 25 years as my friend. She was known for clipping and sending newspaper articles about her friends and their children along with personal notes to her vast legion of friends. Kay had more friends than any one person could ever imagine. They ranged from young to old. She often gave me the following advice, “Always have friends of all ages because if you don’t, old age can be very lonely.” Kay was never lonely!

Kay Winters lived an incredible life spanning 103.7 years. She was fortunate to be able to live in her home on the Santa Maria Ranch in Dayton until shortly before her death on June 26, 2024. She is interred in the Lone Mountain Cemetery next to her beloved JohnD, husband of 59 years.

Researched and written by Marcia Cuccaro.

Sources of Information:

"Carson Tahoe Health Auxiliary." Carson Tahoe Health, Carson City, Nevada. <https://www.carsontahoe.com/auxiliary.html>.

"Kathleen Kelly Winters." *Nevada Appeal* (Carson City, Nevada), 2 July 2024. <https://www.nevadaappeal.com/obituaries/2024/jul/02/kathleen-winters>.

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Perea, Robert. "A grand day for a grand marshal." *Reno Gazette Journal* (Reno, Nevada), October 29, 2014. <https://www.rgj.com/story/news/local/mason-valley/2014/10/29/grand-day-grand-marshal/18149223>.

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