

My Mother, Jean Ritchie Boal

On January 29, 2015, my mother passed away peacefully at Kyle Court Adult Care facility, Paisley, Scotland, Stewart, myself and Frank were with her until the end.

I had not fully realized how popular and well respected she had been worldwide until the funeral when about 200 friends, family and colleagues turned up at the crematorium to pay their respects. We wanted this to be a celebration of Mum's life, so Stewart and I gave careful thought as to the music before and after the service; it had to be something Mum would have approved of! We decided on the Dark Island (which Mum always referred to as the Black Isle) for the entrance and for people exiting, a Ceilidh band CD playing the Canadian Barn Dance. You could hear the rhythmic tapping of feet as people were leaving. It was quite the celebration.

The minister commented on Mum being interviewed for a Detroit radio station a number of years ago saying she was introduced as a well known "Agitator" instead of Adjudicator from Scotland, this caused quite a bit of laughter from those who knew Mum well.

The family has received many cards of support and sympathy from all over the world and I personally would like to thank the Highland Dancing community for all of this.

So this is a toast to my Mum and I hope that on her forward travels, St. Peter has the Pearly Gates open wide for her or there will be trouble!!

A very big Thank You to representatives from the following:
BATD, SDTA, UKA, SOBHD, RSPBA, FUSTA, Australian Board, Lowland Pipers of Belgium, Trinity Church Renfrew, Enabled Club Renfrew, Fiddle and Accordion Club, and especially to the wonderful and caring staff at Kyle Court in Paisley,

On behalf of the family,

Stewart, Elizabeth, Frank, Angus, Rachel and Elise.

February 18, 2015.