

Kathy Lorton built a career in education and raised 12 children

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Kathy S. Lorton was born in Ilwaco, but was raised in Raymond by her parents Glenn and Iris Capps.

Kathy should have received her diploma with the Class of 1968, but she says, "I did not graduate, but received my G.E.D."

She does remember one teacher. She said, "Mr. Lovin was my favorite teacher. He taught the fifth grade and was motivating and created an environment for learning. His classroom was safe---he was firm, but encouraged us. We had fun! The first report that I ever wrote with pride was on Paris, France (for Mr. Lovin)."

Along with her favorite teacher, Kathy wanted to mention two women that she considers her mentors---her mother, Iris V. Capps, and her grandmother, Maggie Shreve. She says, "They taught me strength, wisdom and encouragement. They taught me that the most important things in life are spirituality, family and self-pride. Both women gave and loved unconditionally, and I thank God every day that I was part of their lives as they together saved mine."

Later Kathy received a B.A. in Education from Central Washington University. She got a Masters Degree in Education and a School Administration Degree from Lewis & Clark Law School.

She has worked as a teacher, grades K-8 at Taholah, then as a teacher K-12 at Lake Quinalt. She taught high school, grades 9 through 12 at Aberdeen High School. After getting her administrator's credentials, she went back to her first school in Taholah to be the principal of the entire K-12 system. She next worked as Assistant Dean of Education at Grays Harbor College. At the present time she is the Superintendent of Schools at the Queets Clearwater School District, which includes grades K-8.

She and her husband, Raymond E. Lorton, a graduate of South Bend High School, have lived in Grays Harbor County all their professional lives. They currently live in Aberdeen. Ray is the Superintendent of Schools at Chief Leschi School District. They have 12 children---Kelly, 35; Michael, 34; Sequoyah, 28; Mahanah, 21; Joseph, 17; Shaquille, 10; Keyshawn, 8; Kobe, 7; Mahki, 7; Rashad, 6; Matayah, 5; and Akyah, 4. They also have four grandchildren: David, 10; Ty, 9; Kenya, 4; and Erin, 2.

When asked about her hobbies, Kathy laughed and said, "With 12 children and four grandchildren, my time and hobbies include doing whatever the kids are doing! Once in a great while I get to spend some quiet time with the most wonderful man in the entire world, my husband. Ray is truly the wind beneath my wings."

Kathy's advice to this year's seniors is, "Surround yourself with positive energy. Everything happens exactly the way it is meant to happen. Embrace the good and always forgive yourself. Forgiving yourself allows you to be able to give to others. Giving is glorious!"



RHS Alumnus Kathy Lorton, 1968 (standing at right, with her husband Roy, kneeling at right, and three of their children)