

Memorial Resolution for Liz Beyler Kraak**July 14, 1947 – February 9, 2017**

Liz Beyler Kraak, a former broadcast and university relations specialist, passed away Feb. 9 at the age of 69 after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

She grew up in Madison and received her bachelor's degree in journalism from UW–Madison in 1969. After college, Liz worked for radio station WIBA in Madison. During her time there, she was the first female reporter to become a regular in the all men's press room at the State Capitol. After her employment with WIBA, she went on to work part-time at the Department of Natural Resources and the UW.

She started working at UW–Madison in 1988 as a part-time broadcast specialist. Liz had worked for 20 years in radio news in Madison and used that experience to serve as a broadcast liaison for what was then known as UW–Madison News & Information Services, now called University Communications. She went on to serve in a number of roles before retiring as a senior broadcast specialist in 2012.

Liz brought a deep passion for the campus and an institutional knowledge that only someone with her experience could have. Her deep historic knowledge of the university was a valuable resource countless times.

She loved to socialize and knew people across the many corners of campus. Besides her knack with people, one thing colleagues remember Liz for was her laugh. It didn't matter if you knew what she was laughing at. Once you heard that laugh, there was a good chance you'd join in.

Liz took special pride in promoting the university, whether it was through helping with visiting speakers or planning other campus events. She thrived when in event-planning mode – a skill that her colleagues admired not just because she did it with ease but because she genuinely enjoyed helping make sure all the pieces came together.

UW-Madison was fortunate to have such a loyal academic staff member and supporter for so many years. For those of us who were lucky enough to work with Liz, we hope a bit of her enthusiasm and dedication have rubbed off. We miss her and extend our heartfelt gratitude with this memorial resolution.

We also extend our sympathy to her husband, Larry W. Kraak, who worked in grounds management at UW–Madison until retiring earlier this year.

Respectfully submitted by John Lucas, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of University Communications