



The Carla Montana - Distinguished Military Veteran - Memorial Girl Scout Adventure Fund

Carla grew up in a military family where service to one's country and service and friendship to fellow Girl Scouts were important values. Carla also had significant exposure to foreign cultures, was an exchange Girl Scout to Chile and an exchange student to Bologna, Italy when she was a college junior. Carla's Italian language proficiency was highly prized by the staff of the Italian Air Force Academy in Naples, Italy. Both Carla and her mother taught English to the Italian Air Force cadets. This international exposure taught Carla to appreciate art which would be of great interest to her when she later lived in Montana. Carla enjoyed her academic pursuits earning an Army ROTC scholarship and graduating from college in Pennsylvania. Carla later earned a Master of Arts degree with a major in Journalism and Public Affairs. This degree would serve Carla well in her career at the US Department of State.

Known as "Carla Pooh" by her family and relatives, Carla obviously loved "Winnie the Pooh" books and childhood reading. She could be spotted frequently with an armful of books on her way home from the library. She also enjoyed reading about the detective Nancy Drew.

Carla was a bounty of useful knowledge, advising her family and friends on various topics such as; which job to apply for, how to play a piano, and of course keeping up with her Spanish and Italian friends with whom she connected from her multiple exchanges. She could "cut a rug" with the best being involved with a ballroom dance club while she lived the cosmopolitan life in Arlington, Virginia. Carla also did not shy away from a challenge. She earned her Financial Advisor credentials and worked for Merrill Lynch in Metropolitan New Jersey just across the river from the iconic Wall Street of Manhattan. Her own intelligence would soon play a role in the field of intelligence for the US Army and for the Defense Intelligence Agency where she specialized in Latin America. Carla's introduction to that sector of the economy would eventually place her with the Bureau of International Law Enforcement within the US Department of State.

Although Carla had many varied experiences both personally and professionally, she loved Girl Scouts and spoke fondly of her experience as an exchange Girl Scout in Chile. She easily made friends with other young women who were also Girl Scout alums. The sense of friendship and adventure that Carla learned from Girl Scouts was evident in her easy going way and adventurous spirit. Carla's family was later introduced to a Chilean Girl Scout, "NeNe" who visited Colorado and interacted with the local troop in Colorado Springs.

Carla decided to leave the fast life behind and go to Montana where some of her relatives lived. She loved horses and had an American Eskimo dog who was her constant companion. Carla earned an art degree and used this and inspiration from the big sky country of Montana to create some beautiful paintings and mixed media artwork.

This Scholarship is given in the memory of the distinguished military service of Carla Montana and the exemplary service and affection that she shared with the Wagon Wheel Council of Girl Scouts of Colorado. Carla's values of education and service to one's nation and love of the Girl Scouts are being nurtured and prospered by this gift of a scholarship to a deserving Girl Scout.