

Maureen McHugh Aritz Women's Business Memorial Scholarship



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Maureen McHugh Aritz passed away on December 06, 2012 peacefully at home surrounded by her family after a courageous two year battle with cancer.

Maureen's brothers Tommy and Jeff have established this scholarship in honor of Maureen. Through their generosity and donations from family, friends and co-workers this award will continue.

Maureen's dedication to her mother, her brothers and their families and her sons and their families was remarkable. She was a loving, supportive daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. Always ready to help anyway she could. She was caring, kind, generous, outgoing, determined, motivated, hardworking, enthusiastic, professional, a sales leader, an outstanding field leader and a very successful business woman. While always modest about her success, she became one of Lia Sophia's highest annual earners and one of the highest paid women in the country and she shared her good fortune with her family and friends.

Maureen graduated from Wyoming Area High School in 1967 and attended Lock Haven University. In 1981 she joined Lia Sophia, formerly known as Act II Jewelry, as an independent contractor: marketing fashion jewelry from a small home-based business. Maureen spent the last 30 plus years of her career working for Act II/Lia Sophia. She went on to amass a multimillion-dollar sales team of 6000 representatives throughout the country. While mentoring this outstanding team of representatives and leaders, Maureen won every personal and group award offered by Lia Sophia and was awarded countless travel incentives. By 2002 Maureen was promoted to zone manager, the top field position available with Lia Sophia and in 2006, 2007 and 2010 won the coveted Victor Kiam Eagle Award for her dedication. Throughout her professional journey, from the very beginning, all the way to the top, Maureen was admired for her business sense, kindness and energy, forming many lifelong friendships along the way.

Her success came about because of two things: she worked very hard and she cared. She was always planning ahead, always willing to take that next phone call or hold a meeting. She would encourage anybody who would listen to her and offer them straightforward wisdom. She was a mentor to everyone, regardless of whether you worked for her or not. She never hesitated to share her wisdom and support others. She empowered women, encouraged hope and success. She was one classy lady. She did not let illness get in the way of her aspirations. She represented the epitome of a strong work ethic and the colors of a true leader.

Maureen's family, friends and co-workers will miss her terribly and will honor her memory by following by her example. We know she would have wanted it that way and we will hold her in our hearts and celebrate a life well lived that has brought such meaning and purpose to all of us.

Maureen fulfilled a lifelong dream last summer when she finally got to visit Ireland. She was extremely PROUD of her Irish heritage.

Maureen was invested in the community outreach, particularly in Dress for Success and working as a board member for the Greater Pittston YMCA and the Woman's Network through the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce. Maureen was also very active with the SPCA having adopted dogs from there.

The McHugh-Aritz scholarship committee will make the final selection for this award. An interview may be held as part of the selection process.

Maureen and her brothers Tommy and Jeff established the Dolores "Dodo" McHugh Boys' Basketball Scholarship" in 2008 and it continues today.

Criteria: Applicants for this scholarship will be female graduating Wyoming Area seniors who have an interest in studying some aspect of business and who have been accepted to a 4 year college or university.

Essay: Each applicant must submit a solid essay of at least 500 words telling why you deserve this award. In this essay tell us about any unique community involvement, business experiences and how you see yourself possessing traits/qualities very similar to Maureen.