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| *September 17, 2004* |

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Carolyn Cavitt**

**February 21, 1944 – September 10, 2004**



*The Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission and staff were saddened to learn of the death of Commissioner Carolyn Cavitt on Friday, September 10th. Carolyn Cavitt was appointed to the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission in May, 2004 by Governor Vilsack. Shortly after receiving the appointment, Ms. Cavitt was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme, a very aggressive type of stage four brain tumor.*

*Funeral services to celebrate Carolyn's life were held Tuesday, September 14, 2004 at 1:30 PM at Lower City Park. A reception and celebration was held at 4 PM, Tuesday at the Levitt Center for University Advancement. Burial was at Ridgewood Cemetery in North Liberty. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Carolyn’s family and friends.*

**Active Community Volunteer Dies at 60**

By Vanessa Miller - *Iowa City Press-Citizen*

September 11, 2004

The end: That was the title of the most recent update in the online journal started by long-time Iowa City activist Carolyn Cavitt's daughter after her mother was diagnosed with the most common and most aggressive type of brain tumor in July.

Cavitt, an avid community volunteer and co-coordinator of the Stepping Up Project, a coalition against binge drinking, died just after 11 a.m. Friday at the age of 60, her family said.

"It was peaceful," Cavitt's daughter, Camille Holthaus, said in Friday's updated online journal.

And that is just how she wanted it, according to her family and many friends.

Cavitt also worked from 1998 to 2001 as branch manager of RBC Dain Rauscher Inc., the local arm of a national financial firm.

She also was a member of several area groups, including the local Rotary Club and the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She was instrumental in seeing the Iowa City Public Library's building expansion become reality.

"When we went to a big meeting, she would work the room," said Jim Clayton, who joined her as co-coordinator of the Stepping Up project in 2003. "She knew hundreds and hundreds of people and was very active in the community."

It was that enthusiasm for living life fully that led Cavitt to opt against the radiation and chemotherapy recommended to slow the tumor's growth after its partial removal July 7.

"She wanted to enjoy the time she had left," said Cavitt's husband, Michael.

"When Carolyn made a decision, that was it," Clayton said. "She was that kind of person."

Cavitt learned that she had Glioblastoma Multiforme, a type of stage four brain tumor, in early July after becoming ill during a business trip to Philadelphia. Michael Cavitt said patients with the fast growing tumor usually die in three months.

"Hers happened to be two months," he said, adding that the area has lost one of its greatest activists and community volunteers. "She had the ability to contribute in a way that had an impact."

Clayton, who was with Cavitt when she died, said he will miss his unique friend.

"She was one of a kind," he said. "We don't have many of those, so when they pass, we need to acknowledge their contribution."

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**Stepping Up Leader Dies of Cancer**

By Elaine Fabian *- The Daily Iowan*

[September 15, 2004](http://www.dailyiowan.com/main.cfm/include/displayIssueArticles/issue_date/20040915.html)

IOWA CITY, IA -- Carolyn Cavitt, a community activist known for her role as co-coordinator of the Stepping Up Project, was honored Tuesday for her life's achievements following her death last week.

The 60-year-old, diagnosed nearly two months ago with brain cancer, helped lead the program until her death on Sept. 10, friends and family said. She served as the project's first chairwoman when it was founded in 1996, and she became the interim director before stepping into the co-coordinator slot with Jim Clayton.

"When the project started, nobody was talking about alcohol. The concept of alcohol in skyboxes crossed nobody's mind," said her husband, Michael Cavitt, during a ceremony at the Levitt Center. "She raised awareness of the health risk of drinking alcohol and offered alternatives to drinking."

In addition to her work with Stepping Up, Carolyn Cavitt was a stockbroker for RBC Dain Rauscher for 20 years. In 1998, she became the second woman to serve as a company branch manager.

"What I loved about her professionally was she cared for the clients," said Bruce Guither, a former co-worker at the investment firm. "She did what was right for them, not what was right for her."

She was also highly active in other aspects of the community. She was co-president of the Iowa City Public Library in the 1970s and president of the Iowa Public Library Foundation in the mid-1980s.

She was serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board in 1996 when she was asked to serve as the Stepping Up chairwoman. She was also the president of Altrussa on the Iowa City Noon Rotary Board of Directors. In 2004, she was appointed to serve on the state's Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

"Every time I talked to her, she was smiling and wondering how you are," said Brett Greggs, one of Carolyn Cavitt's friends. "If you meet one person like that in a lifetime, you're lucky."

She spent her last days in Minneapolis with her family before returning to Iowa City, where she died in the company of her husband and a friend. She is survived by her husband, daughter Camille Holthaus, and two grandsons, Robert and Jacob Holthaus.

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