

HAVING THE LAST WORD: HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN OBITUARY

Brattleboro Area Hospice, Sponsor - www.brattleborohospice.org

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OBITUARY DEFINED

An **obituary** reports the recent death of a person and includes the following:

BASIC INFORMATION

Full Name
Age
Place of residence of the deceased
Time and place of death

Sarah Cynthia Silvia Stout, 49, died at her home on Recycle Road in Redemption, Vermont, early on the morning of Friday, April 13, 2018.

STANDARD OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Cause and/or manner of death
Date and Place of birth
Name of parents
Military Service
Education History
Work History
Civic and/or fraternal organizations
Community Service
Hobbies
Other accomplishments & Awards
Religious affiliation
Marriages
Children
Other Survivors (siblings, in-laws, grandchildren, significant others, beloved pets)
Funeral or Memorial Service Information
Special Message
Photo

Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout was the daughter of Thelma Wiseacre and Louise Tough.

Stout served in the US Navy before attending the University of Vermont, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

Stout worked at the Kingdom Come Landfill for twenty-five years. During that time, she rose from heavy equipment operator to CEO.

A pillar in her community, Stout volunteered in the Lamoille County School system, teaching students how to compost. She also founded Family By Choice, a non-profit.

A memorial service will be held at the River Garden in Brattleboro on Friday, April 27, 2018, at noon. A green burial to be held at a later date will be private.

Memorial Gifts may be made to the Family By Choice Endowment Fund.

PERSONALIZED STYLE

Sally, also known as Sal, was the only child of Thelma Wiseacre and Louise Tough, longtime operators of Kingdom Come Junk in Eden, Vermont. Sally was homeschooled until she joined the circus as the Bearded Lady. Two years later, she enlisted in the US Navy as able seaman Salvatore Stout, where he served with distinction.

Upon the brazen and defiant double suicide of her parents in 1991, Sal, as he was known in the navy, returned to Eden to take over the family business. Supported by the GI Bill, Sally completed her BS in Environmental Science at the University of Vermont.

Sally then singlehandedly undertook the Herculean task of cleaning up the Kingdom Come, doing whatever was needed, whether operating or repairing heavy equipment, handling Hazmat according to EPA standards, and recordkeeping. Sal successfully secured grants from The Environmental Protection Agency, The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Lamoille County Regional Commission to turn what had been a junkyard into a state of the art Waste Recovery Facility and Transfer Station dedicated to reducing waste through recovery, recycling and repurposing what used to be called trash.

Sal also started the first municipal composting project in the state, which began in the local elementary school, where Sally convinced the professional staff that this was a great, school-wide, hands-on science project. As a community volunteer, Sally launched, *Let The Worms Do the Work*, a program she was delighted to replicate the wherever asked. Let Worms Do the Work is now an integral part of the core curriculum throughout Vermont.

Let The Worms Do the Work has won both the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence as well as recognition from the National Association of Science Teacher's Project of the Year, and Recognition from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Association of Municipal Composters.

Sally believed no one should be without work, family or home, and welcomed all who were willing to join her in creating what she called "a family by choice." Men and women of all ages, races, socio-economic backgrounds, ability and sexual orientation found their way to Eden, where residents shared responsibility for household maintenance, which came to include a small farmstead, including an orchard, vegetable gardens, a poultry operation and sugar bush.

In 2016, Sal turned the Kingdom Come Waste Management Center over to the county, and she turned her home into the non-profit, Family By Choice. There will be a Memorial Service and celebration of Sal's life on Friday, April 27, 2018, at noon at the River Garden, in Brattleboro. Internment will be private and green, at a later date.

Anyone wishing to commemorate the extraordinary life of Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout may do so by contributing to the Family By Choice Endowment Fund.