

Judith (Judy) Ann Smith was born in 1942 in Portland and attended Wichita and Oak Grove Schools. At Milwaukie High School (MHS), she fell in love with the sciences, especially chemistry. Judy was a successful student during her time at MHS. She was a National Merit Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, President of the Girls' League and selected Girl of the Year and Most Likely to Succeed by her fellow classmates.

After graduation from MHS in 1961, she chose Oregon State University (OSU) due to its excellent Department of Science to pursue her love of chemistry. "Unfortunately during her freshman year, her chemistry professor let the class know that he didn't feel girls should be in the field of science," said her husband, Ken. After continual badgering, Judy changed her major to education, one of the more acceptable professions, along with nursing, for a girl. Being discouraged from scientific careers was quite a common experience for many women during the 1960s.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from OSU, Judy taught 5th grade at Bow Lake Elementary in Seattle, where she met her husband, Ken Hill. She finished her career as a math teacher at Washington Middle School, also in Seattle. Judy loved reading, traveling internationally, sports and animals, especially birds. Four rescue dogs brightened her life.

Tragically in 2007, Judy, who never smoked, was diagnosed with non-small-cell lung cancer. During the final stage of her life, she studied the disease extensively and became a mentor to others who were newly diagnosed. Despite her strong will and determination, the disease finally took her life thirteen days short of seven and a half years in July, 2014.