
Friends, family remember community leader Carolyn McNamara

Wednesday

Posted Apr 12, 2017 at 5:59 PM

Updated Apr 12, 2017 at 5:59 PM

By

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PHELAN — Friends and family are mourning community leader Carolyn McNamara after the popular real estate agent and businesswoman died Tuesday.

The 57-year-old McNamara, the broker/owner of The McNamara Group, died due to complications of pneumonia at St. Joseph Health, St. Mary in Apple Valley, according to loved ones.

“In the last 24 hours of her life, we were able to talk with her and comfort her as she prepared herself,” said McNamara’s brother, David Kerley, in a Facebook post. “Carolyn had quite an impact on her community. We will celebrate that, and her life soon.”

Karen Sanchez, president of the High Desert Association of Realtors, said McNamara was on the San Bernardino County Tax Board, served as president of the Phelan Chamber of Commerce and was a “force to be reckoned with” in the real estate community.

“Carolyn truly had a heart of gold, and she’s got a wall full of awards and plaques for her hard work and love for this community,” Sanchez said. “She will truly be missed.”

Joseph W. Brady, president of The Bradco Companies, said McNamara had a pulse on real estate in the Tri-Community region, adding she was very clear about her opinions, was honest and “never beat around the bush.”

“I had the distinct honor of serving on the San Bernardino County Tax Appeals Board as a fellow commissioner with her for over five years,” said Brady, who said he believed McNamara was the top-selling agent in the High Desert at one time. “She brought a lot of talent, understanding and passion.”

McNamara’s friend and spiritual adviser Anthony Spampinato told the Daily Press that McNamara served the chamber, real estate and equestrian communities with “intense passion.”

“We served on the chamber together and she was heavily involved in the Phelan Rodeo,” Spampinato said. “She wore a lot of hats, including the role of honorary mayor of Phelan.”

Spampinato said McNamara was a strong, aggressive business woman, with her top quality being “integrity,” something that continues to be exemplified by her staff today.

“I’m a local Realtor and I knew Carolyn for more than 22 years,” Kathy Zimbardo posted on Facebook. “We’ve done many a deal together over the years and she was always fair to work with and knew her job better than anyone. She was well respected in her industry and will be greatly missed.”

Spampinato said services for McNamara are being planned for later this month.

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