



King County

Department of Assessments

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John Wilson
Assessor

Statement on the life of Ruth Woo by John Wilson, King County Assessor

July 13, 2016

The passing of Ruth Woo truly marks the passing of a time in our community's history. Her smallness of stature belied a largeness of heart and mind, a devotion to justice and a friendly, inclusive society.

Ruth mentored so many of us, always encouraging us to do more, to work harder to push open the doors for those on the outside.

I was lucky enough to call her a dear friend. I'm deeply saddened to hear she has passed away. Ruth was a walking history book in state politics, a sage, savvy counselor, and a truly tireless civil rights champion. I can't pretend to count all the people she touched and nudged into public service. She would never talk to me as a reporter -- she preferred to stay behind the scenes -- but we became fast friends and Bush Garden dining buddies over the years.

I say a prayer for Ruth today. She can never be replaced, but we can all strive to be a bit more like Ruth Woo: a humble, humane person dedicated to mentoring a diverse pool of new talent. God bless, Ruth. Peace.