

MARJORIE YASUE FERN ZIEGLER / 1956-2018

Passionate wildlife defender led Conservation Council for Hawaii

By Susan Essoyan
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Marjorie Yasue Fern Ziegler, a passionate advocate for Hawaii's wildlife and wild places, died unexpectedly at age 62 at her family's home Wednesday, according to the Conservation Council for Hawaii.

Raised with a love of nature, Ziegler served as the council's executive director since 2003 when she became its first full-time staff member. Before that, she worked as a resource analyst for 14 years for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, now known as Earthjustice, protecting endangered species and ecosystems.

"Marjorie was as reliable as she was brilliant — so of course, when she spoke, people listened," said

Wayne Tanaka, president of the board of the Conservation Council for Hawaii.

"From legislators to agency personnel to folks on the ground, Marjorie was the No. 1 go-to person for advice, a fact check or, if you were lucky, an ally in your fight."



CRAIG T. KOJIMA / 2015

Marjorie Ziegler, director of the Conservation Council for Hawaii, died Wednesday. She was 62.

public schools from Kapunahala Elementary through Castle High, followed by Windward Community College. Ziegler worked as an archaeological assistant at Kualoa Regional Park and a

tional and advocacy programs as well as its membership, which now tops 5,000 members. The nonprofit organization is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

"The matriarch of Hawaii's environmental move-

Ziegler suffered a heart attack a few years ago, and her health had declined over the past year but her death came as a shock, said her close friend Doug Lamerson. "She passed in her sleep," Lamerson said. "I think her heart just quit on her."

"Despite her fierce public persona and advocacy, there was really a very soft person behind there," he said. "You would see it expressed with animals, and she was really, really good with kids."

Born on Jan. 14, 1956, in Berkeley, Calif., Ziegler grew up in Kaneohe and credited her parents with connecting her to nature from the start. Her father, Alan, directed Bishop Museum's Division of Vertebrate Zoology, and her mother, Kaye, who hailed from Kyoto, Japan, loved animals.

Ziegler grew up with an assortment of pets, both domestic and semiwild. The family freezer also sometimes contained specimens that her father had collected and stored temporarily, clearly marked "Not for consumption."

She attended Windward

recreation assistant at Kalia District Park.

She went on to earn a bachelor's in geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Lamerson, a close friend since their days as UH classmates, said it took time for her to take on the mantle of an outspoken advocate.

"I remember her being terrified at the prospect of having to give a presentation in one of her classes," he recalled. "Nobody who knows her today would imagine that, for her to lack confidence in that way."

Ziegler described her father as "my best friend, mentor and inspiration." She followed his lead and mentored a generation of conservationists in Hawaii. She was known for bringing people together, forging coalitions and approaching issues pragmatically.

"She was very culturally akamai for someone who was not Hawaiian," Lamerson said. "She was very sensitive to the Hawaiian culture as well as the natural environment, and that made her effective."

Ziegler built up the Conservation Council's educa-

wai's environmental movement and the architect of the Conservation Council for Hawaii has passed on to live in the arms of the earth she so loved," her friend Rosemary Alles wrote Monday in a post on Facebook. "Your fierce love for our planet, all its creatures and its people will rest and rise with me like the constant blue that reaches for and then breaks on our Hawaiian shores."

The Conservation Council for Hawaii's board of directors has established a Marjorie Ziegler Legacy Fund to further her work to restore and protect Hawaii's indigenous plants, animals and habitats.

"Her lifelong commitment to the environment was unquestionable," said Randy Bartlett, interagency coordinator for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. "From the classroom in our college days, until the last weeks of her life, she never stopped advocating for native species biodiversity and conservation."

Along with her mother, Ziegler is survived by her brother, Walter. Services are pending.

PAUL LELAND BREESE

Honolulu Zoo Director Emeritus
Husband, Father, Friend to All Creatures
October 16, 1922 - October 18, 2018



Paul reminisced, "One of my most cherished childhood memories is picturing me as an eight year old explaining to my mother and aunt how my pet alligator used its webbed feet together with its tail to swim in our bathtub. This recollection turned out to be highly prophetic since the two basic commitments of my long life have involved these same two activities: maintaining and interpreting exotic creatures."

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Orphaned by 1935, Paul traveled alone by train along with his pet turtle from Atlanta to southern California to live with relatives where he continued to be absorbed with nature. While attending college, he worked as a bus driver and in the reptile department at the San Diego Zoo, establishing long time friendships with then Director Belle Benchley, Bird Curator K. C. Lint, and Reptile Curator Charles Shaw.

After Pearl Harbor, Paul enlisted in the navy, trained at Columbia University, and was commissioned a naval officer. He learned the skill of landing amphibious crafts on beaches and participated in five different Pacific campaigns including Leyte Gulf and Iwo Jima. With the benefit of the GI bill, Paul graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1947.

Paul's war experiences fostered his confidence and strengthened his passion to pursue his career of the displaying, conserving, and protecting animals. In 1947, Paul was appointed the first Director of the Honolulu Zoo. He developed the zoo's first master plan which defined the zoo's boundaries in Waikiki with fences and a single entrance, designed and constructed the many animal enclosures, landscaped and paved the parking area. Paul made numerous trips to the Mainland gathering and accompanying animals on their overseas trip to Honolulu. In 1964, a plaque was placed at the opening of new reptile building: Paul Breese Animalanai - This building is named in honor of Paul L. Breese in appreciation of outstanding service to the community while director of the Honolulu Zoo from 1947 to 1964. With vision, creativeness and dedication he developed the zoo into one of the world's finest, giving to the people of Honolulu and to visitors an educational and recreational facility of unending pleasure. He leaves here a lasting imprint of his love of animals and of people young and old.

Paul's most important contribution to our State was his work with the then Territory of Hawaii to begin the Nene Restoration Project in 1949. He chaired the committee to name the Nene our State bird in the 1950's. In the 1970's, he was the Wildlife Chief for the DLNR, started Pacific Zoological Consultants, worked with hotels on wildlife displays. In the 1990's, Paul founded the Brown Tree Snake Control Group bringing attention and action to our State's protection from that threat. In 2013, Paul was interviewed by the Zoos and Aquariums Video Archives which recorded his history, experiences, and wisdom for future generations. Paul and his wife published *THE HONOLULU ZOO Waikiki's Wildlife Treasure 1915 - 2015*. In 2016, he was named a *Living Treasure of Hawaii*.

Paul leaves behind Jean DeMercer-Breese, his spouse of 32 years; children: Marlee Breese, Paul Breese III, Natalie Sainsevain, Dawn Breese; step-daughters: Eileen Lee, Elizabeth Spliethof, Caroline Wissmann, and Vicky DeMercer; 11 grandchildren including Lorain Adams, Moani Adams, Natty Adams, Raven Tershy, and 1 great-granddaughter, Dominique Adams-Santos.

Services scheduled for Friday, November 2, 2018
at 12:00 p.m. at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery.

8-17-2018 HSA

Former Land Board chairman was WWII hero, sugar manager

By Gordon Y.K. Pang
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Bill Paty's life read like a popular novel.

D-day paratrooper. Plantation manager. ConCon 1978 president. Adviser to a governor and state Land Board chairman.

On top of that, he taught his children to surf and dive and "could ride a horse better than John Wayne," said Steve Paty, his eldest son.

William Woods Paty II, who helped shape policies involving land and water, the environment and Native Hawaiians during the late 20th century, died Sunday. He was 97.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Paty was a 23-year-old Army captain in the 101st Airborne Division on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when he parachuted into enemy territory, was captured and held as a prisoner of war by the Germans.

At one point he was shot in the groin during a battle with the Germans, and the bullet remained lodged in his body throughout his life.

Paty attempted to escape imprisonment three times, finally finding success with the help of Polish nationals and Russian soldiers which he recounted vividly in a 2014 USA Today article. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service.

Paty graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1942 before enlisting, intending to work on a sugar plantation.

When he returned from the war, he married his Punahou School sweetheart, Marguerite M. "Peggy" Kellerman. And he began a 38-year career at Waialua Sugar in a job that today would be known as the human resources director, Paty said during a 2011 interview on "Long Story Short," the PBS Hawaii show.

Paty told interviewer Leslie Wilcox that he soon found

Please see PATY, B3



DENNIS ODA / 2005

William Paty helped shape Hawaii's policies involving land and water, the environment and Native Hawaiians during the late 20th century.

PATY HSA

Continued from B1

8-17-2018
himself in the middle of the 1946 sugar plantation strike with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

"It was an experience that served me well down the road, because you learned how to work with people who had strongly differing opinions of what should be done," Paty told Wilcox.

When Wilcox told Paty that he was thought of affectionately by Waialua residents decades later because of the personal bonds he formed, he responded, "You could not be in that country situation and not be surrounded by so many good people. ... And if you weren't comfortable and

happy in that kind of an environment in Hawaii, I don't know what would ever happen to you."

Steve Paty said his father genuinely cared about other people in his life, regardless of who they were. "He told me one time, 'Be careful how you treat people on the way up, because you'll never know who you'll meet on the way down.'"

Former Gov. John Waihee and Paty were elected delegates in the landmark 1978 Hawaii Constitutional Convention.

As the son of a plantation worker, Waihee's natural inclination was to oppose naming a plantation manager convention president, Waihee said. But he wound up supporting him after "I got to know him, I got to know his character."

Waihee wound up naming

Paty chairman of his two successful gubernatorial campaigns and named him Land Board director to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

"He understood land, he understood the need to conserve resources and he was just an all-around good manager," Waihee said. "We saved thousands of acres. He worked on the land transfers that we gave back to Hawaiian Homes. When we worked on the ceded-land revenues, he was part of that," he said, noting that Paty's grandfather Capt. John Paty stood with Queen Lili'uokalani during the overthrow.

In 2011 City Council Chairman Ernie Martin led a successful effort to name a portion of Kaiaka Beach Park after Bill and Peggy Paty for their role in saving

the Haleiwa park from development. "He will always be a true hero and son of Hawaii," Martin said Thursday.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell said Paty "changed the course of island politics, which included protections for Native Hawaiian rights, making Hawaiian an official language of the state and protecting our environment."

After leaving public service, Bill Paty was selected a trustee of the Mark Robinson Trust, a job he continued until just a few months ago, Steve Paty said.

Bill Paty is survived by children Steve, Randy, Meg, William III and Susie; 13 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Peggy Paty died in 2012.

A service will be held Nov. 2, 10 a.m., at Central Union Church in Honolulu.