



## Mrs. Ethel Towers North

September 6, 1931 - January 7, 2019

St. Michaels: Ethel Louise Towers North passed away at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore on Monday January 7th surrounded by her immediate family. She was born in Talbot County on September 6th, 1931, the youngest of four children, two girls and two boys, from the union of George Washington Towers and Ethel Hannah Cooper. Both of her parents died when she was a very young child. She and her sister Ann were raised for some years by their grandmother Virginia Cooper in Ridgely, Maryland.

In the 1940's the two sisters were informally adopted by the William Shannahan family where they helped Jane Shannahan Hill Offutt care for her young son, Thomas Hill, whose father had been lost in World War II. They also assisted May Shannahan Cecil with the rearing of her two young children, Arthur and Kitty.

Ethel met her husband-to-be, John C. North II, at a skating party on Peachblossom Creek and the couple courted for several years, corresponding regularly and visiting each other often while he was in college. After graduating high school, Ethel worked in the bookkeeping department at the Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware Company in Easton for several years, and then received specialized training and became a monotypist at Waverly Press (later Cadmus Communications) in Easton.

John and Ethel were married in 1954 in Easton and drove to Sea Island, Georgia for their honeymoon in the 1933 Duesenberg roadster that John had received from his parents upon graduating from Harvard Law School.

The young couple took up residence in Norfolk, Virginia for two years while John served in the U.S. Coast Guard. They then returned to Easton in 1956 where John began the practice of law with his father under the firm name of North and North. The couple welcomed the birth of their sons, David in 1957 and Dan in 1960.

Ethel had a love and unique talent for flower arranging. She trained and became a Master Judge of flower exhibitions, serving ultimately as a judge at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show. She was very active in the Talbot County Garden Club and served as its President in 1979-81.

Athletic as a girl, Ethel was a strong competitor in everything she attempted. She was a runner, horseback rider, swimmer, skater and sailor. She particularly enjoyed the sport of

curling in her later years. More often than not she was a member of the most successful team on the ice.

Ethel will always be greatly admired by the sailors in the historic Chesapeake Bay log canoe fleet for her warm and generous hospitality and especially for the thousands of delicious lunches she provided in her more than forty years of supporting the sport. For many years, she sailed with John as crew on his log canoe, Island Bird. In 2015, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum presented the "Heritage Award" jointly to Ethel and John "In recognition of their significant contributions to the cultural and maritime heritage of the Chesapeake Bay."

She and John also loved fine vintage automobiles and were instrumental in establishing the St. Michaels Concours d'Elegance.

Ethel was preceded in death by her sister, Ann Towers Mason, and Ann's husband Randolph M. Mason, and her two brothers, William and George. She is survived by her husband of 64 years Judge John C. North II and by her two sons, David J. North and Daniel C. North; David's wife Joan Hoge-North and former wife Sallie E. North and their two sons Drew H. North and J. Dylan North, and; Dan's partner Margaret Enloe and former wife Carrington North and their two children Campbell C.S. North and William-Spencer S. North.

Ethel is also survived by her niece Susan M. Sanders, her husband Charles Sanders and their children, Mason, Stuart, and Mark; her nephew Marshall Mason, his wife Susan, and their children Rebekah, Jimmy, Timothy, and Elizabeth; her nephew William E. Towers Jr., his wife Jane and their two sons William E. Towers III and M. Alexander Towers.

An ardent Christian Scientist all her life, she was devoutly attached to the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Easton and was the firmest believer in all the principles embodied in that faith.

At her request, services will be private. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to: First Church of Christ, Scientist 501 South Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601 or Talbot County Garden Club, P.O. Box 1524 Easton, MD 21601.

Services will be private.

# Comments

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“ 82 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 18 at 07:11 AM

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“ Frannie Willis (Admiral Cleaners) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



frannie willis (Admiral Cleaners) - January 16 at 05:02 PM

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“ My sincere sympathies to Judge North, David and Dan and all their families. I was so fortunate to crew on one of their log canoes, Island Blossom, for a number of years. Mrs. North organized and prepared the most wonderful feasts for all the sailors who crewed on their 3 beautiful and historic canoes. She was lovely, smiling, welcoming. She seemed to delight in being surrounded by all the ravenous sailors, many with families, friends and children in tow. It was so gracious of her, and to me those lunches were like events from another era. The manners of the grateful guests, eating at picnic tables on on the lawn under the trees, telling so many stories from the mornings race or races long ago. Mrs. North could not have been a more welcoming and happy hostess. I will remember these times as some of the happiest in my life. God Speed Mrs. North. And blessings to your family and friends.  
Sincerely, Alice Hartge Wilson

Alice Hartge Wilson - January 16 at 09:51 AM

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“ Robert L Roberts 111 lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



Robert L Roberts 111 - January 15 at 05:10 PM

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“ Michael and Gini Spicer purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Ethel Towers North.



Michael and Gini Spicer - January 15 at 04:53 PM

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“ Amy North Gagnon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



Amy North Gagnon - January 15 at 01:09 PM

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“ Sending condolences to the North family. Especially Judge North, I worked with his father back in the early 80's and he and the Judge were always so good to me. Especially when Mr. North passed away. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Diane Barrow

Diane Barrow - January 14 at 12:45 PM

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“ Dorie McGuiness lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



**Dorie McGuiness** - January 14 at 11:00 AM

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“ Mimi will be missed, and the log canoe season will not be the same without her. Her famous iced tea lives on! Hugs and my sincere condolences to her family.



**Sabine M. Simonson** - January 14 at 10:01 AM

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“ Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



**Phil Foster** - January 14 at 03:11 AM

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“ Mindy Sadler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North





“ Connie Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



Connie Harris - January 10 at 07:05 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Will miss Mrs. North coming in & seeing her smile & saying We didn't get to sit at your table tonight. My thoughts & prayers to the family.

Jackie White - January 09 at 08:47 PM

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“ Jackie White lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Ethel Towers North



Jackie White - January 09 at 08:43 PM