



Alice May Kelly Holton

March 4, 2018

Alice May Kelly Holton, age 94, of Chestertown, MD, and Kennett Square, PA, died peacefully on March 4, 2018, in Easton, MD.

Alice was retired from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was the librarian at the New Bolton Center campus of the School of Veterinary Medicine, near Kennett Square. She lived a rich life that included extensive travel adventures, good friends, food, parties, and an extended family.

Alice was born in Tionesta, PA, on December 10, 1923, to Archibald Howard Kelly and Alice Pearl Arner Kelly, and spent her childhood in Tionesta excelling at basketball and, according to her, a little mischief. She briefly attended Temple University in Philadelphia, before moving to Kennett as World War II began. From Kennett, she commuted to her job at Hercules Powder Company in Wilmington. She enjoyed claiming credit for causing a nonlethal explosion in the chemical testing lab.

As the war ended, she met Kennett native, Herbert C. Holton. They married in 1949, and bought an 18th Century farmhouse outside Kennett. Alice used her boundless energy and creativity to transform the house and grounds into a home and gathering place for her family and continually expanding circle of friends. She worked for many years as a librarian at the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library in Kennett, before taking the job as librarian for the recently

established New Bolton Center in 1963. First located in the historic Allam House at New Bolton, and then as part of the new Myrin Building, the library became a warm, vital part of New Bolton, where she befriended many staff and students. She and Herbert took numerous, much-enjoyed trips to Europe. Herbert died in 1993, and Alice retired in 1996, to continue her travels, eventually visiting more of Europe, along with Russia, Turkey, Japan, China, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand, and Argentina, with extended stays in Costa Rica.

She married Pierre C. Pingitore of Wilmington in 1998, and moved to Chestertown in 2010 to be near her daughter and family, and to enjoy the beauty of the Eastern Shore--a place she had always thought she would like to live. In her later years, she battled dementia, which eventually eroded her physical and mental abilities. She was a resident at HeartField's Assisted Living in Easton for four years, and her family thanks the staff of the memory care unit for bringing light and humor to her final time, and to the caring staff of Talbot Hospice.

Alice is survived by daughter, Alice Kelly Holton and son Conard Holton (Barbara Ahern); grandson Douglas Rae; and great-granddaughter Willow; granddaughter Annie Rae (Forrest) Richards; stepchildren Suzanne (David) Goehringer and John Holton and their children; husband Pierre Pingitore and his children, Louis (Oksana Deinak), Joelle (Peter) Waterkotte, and Mark (Laia Espelt); and many nieces and nephews. In addition to Herbert, she was predeceased by her brother, Howard "Ted" Kelly, and sisters, Helen A. Morgan and Mary F. Fox.

Alice wished that the poem *Ithaca*, by C.P. Cavafy, be read at her passing; it begins, "When you set out for Ithaca, pray that your road's a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery... ."

Burial services will be private and a memorial service will be held in the spring. Contributions may be made in memory of Alice K. Holton to the Friends of New Bolton Center Fund. [<https://giving.apps.upenn.edu/fund?fastStart=simpleForm&program=VET&fund=342164>]

Tribute Wall



“ *Alice May Kelly Holton*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Alice May Kelly Holton*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Alice May Kelly Holton*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM