



Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey

May 31, 1921 - May 24, 2019

Catharine Reid Murphey of Chestertown, MD, died on May 24, 2019. An independent spirit and zest for life marked her almost 98 years of life.

Cathy was born in 1921 in New Britain, CT, to Ethel and Robert Smith. She had a brother, Robert Smith, Jr. Cathy grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression.

In 1943, while a senior at Skidmore College, she married John Harrison Reid, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. After the war, he attended law school and built a law practice. During their 54 years of marriage, they raised three children in West Hartford, CT, traveled the world, and shared their love for family, education, and sports. John passed away in 1996.

When Cathy was 80, she married James (Hap) Murphey in 2001, and cherished 12 adventurous years with him in Indiana, Rhode Island, and California. She moved to Heron Point in Chestertown, Maryland, in 2014.

Cathy loved everything about the Rhode Island seashore, where she enjoyed a family home on the ocean in Quonochontaug. She reveled in sea shells, clam chowder, blueberry muffins, fresh lobster, and lightning storms. Golf, tennis, and skiing were favorite lifetime athletic pursuits. Cathy had a keen sense for fashion that never faded. While bravely battling dementia, she

maintained a loving and optimistic attitude and always found a smile for everyone.

She is treasured by her three children and their spouses: John Reid (Meg), Leslie Reid Price (Andy), and Sarah Chisholm (Alex); and nine grandchildren: Harrison Reid (Jennifer), Spencer Reid (Kim), Thomas Reid (Vanessa), John Reid IV (Meredith), Catherine Reid (Fran), Allison Price (Jonathan), Matthew Price (Suzanne), Grace Chisholm (Cory), and Holly Carter (D.J.), and her 11 great grandchildren.

Cemetery Details

West Cemetery Association

35 Bellevue CT
Bristol, TN 06010

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 26. 1:30 PM (ET)

Wesley Hall at Heron Point
501 E. Campus Ave
Chestertown, MD

Service

JUN 20. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Funk Funeral Home
35 Bellevu Ave
Bristol, CT 06010

Tribute Wall



“ *Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Aunt Cathy was such a lovely lady in every way. I was always struck by her seemingly effortless elegance —it could have been intimidating but instead she drew you in with her smile, her laugh, her sparkling eyes and her genuine caring. I love to picture her on the porch steps at Quonnie. Hurricane Carol is still a vivid memory for me, huddled with my sister and brother and Mom and Cathy in an upstairs bedroom in the Quonnie house. To calm our fears Mom and Cathy led us in song: "Oh what a beautiful morning!"*

Nancy Jenks - June 18, 2019 at 11:45 AM



Oops, showing my age Cathy was not in that room with us during Hurricane Carol but I'm sure she would have joined in the singing had she been there.....

Nancy Jenks - June 19, 2019 at 11:42 AM

LR

“Cathy was my first dinner date.

Which doesn't sound like a big deal but, at the time, I was contemplating seventeen and she was well into her twenties.

Twenty-three to be precise

Our date was my mother's idea. "Cathy will be glad to get out of the house," and made reservations at the Green Lantern, a roadside eatery outside of Bristol that had a bar, a small place to dance and tables with green lanterns on them that dimly pierced thick clouds of cigarette smoke.

Mother let me drive her Olds convertible and I wore a green hounds-tooth sports jacket. I can't remember what Cathy was wearing because, as we talked, I looked into my hands much of the time and in the thick haze a fortune teller just as well could have been sitting across from me.

In the past, school dances allowed only enough time to get off a few funny remarks and for a partner to say, "You're really a character."

Now, with a juke-box playing songs like They're Either Too Young or Too Old, I'd was dating a mature women, a woman married to my brother out in the Pacific fighting for us. The whole thing seemed Biblical; I should have been talking about the meaning of life and things like that.

Fortunately Cathy knew how to talk to young men. About my being my brother's best man at their wedding, how he slipped me the wedding ring only at the very last moment, lest I lose it. Mostly she let me talk about me. I heard myself opening up and feeling her loneliness a little when she'd reach over and squeeze my hand as if thanking me for our dinner date. We even tried to dance a little.

It turned out to be our only date but, every so often since then, we've reminded ourselves of the Green Lantern where a unique friendship took place that will last with us forever.

Harry Reid

June 14, 2019

Linda L Reid - June 14, 2019 at 08:25 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey.*



May 31, 2019 at 12:48 PM



“ *Max & Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey*



Max & Maryann Ruehrmund - May 28, 2019 at 10:38 AM



“ *Suzanne Jackson lit a candle in memory of Catharine Wright Reid-Murphey*



Suzanne Jackson - May 26, 2019 at 06:21 PM