



Irene Willoughby Hunter

April 6, 1937 - July 28, 2020

Irene Willoughby Hunter of Easton, MD, passed away peacefully on July 28, 2020, at the age of 83. She was born in Centreville, MD, to the late Mildred Welch Willoughby and Clark Willoughby.

Irene grew up in the wharf area of the town and often joked about being a “wharf rat” throughout her life. When she finished high school, Irene began working as a bookkeeper for the Ashley Gas Company in Centreville. She continued to work there until the late 1960s when she became the assistant Director of Talbot County Department of Social Services. On Memorial Day weekend in 1970, Irene and her husband William O. Hunter, Jr. “Nipsy” moved their family to Easton. Irene became the bookkeeper for a few Talbot County law firms in town in addition to her role at Social Services. Her accounting expertise was greatly valued and earned Irene an outstanding reputation for her abilities.

After the death of “Nipsy,” her husband of nearly 40 years in 1998, Irene retired and focused on helping others. She was very active in the Presbyterian Church of Easton having served as a deacon and an elder. Irene worked part-time during her retirement at Heartfields, and the Talbot Senior Center in Easton under the direction of her dear friend, Mrs. Jessie Caldwell. They, along with the help of another dear friend, Mrs. Naomi Reed, and others, set forth on the biggest fundraising effort in the history of the center to revitalize it

and make the facility what it is today.

Irene worked there until the discovery of an illness, Lewy body dementia. She remained at home at the onset of the disease with the help of a loving family and a very special caregiver, Mrs. Jackie Gibbs who the Hunters will be forever grateful. For the past few years, Irene stayed in the care of Homestead Manor in Denton at the recommendation of a family friend. It was a decision that would prove to be very beneficial in her final years. Their incredible care, along with the dedication of Doctors Terri Dietrich, Robert Smoloski, and Bruce Helmly, all of who she was very fond of, and the Johns Hopkins memory center, helped her navigate the path of a very difficult disease.

Irene loved children, her friends, cooking, shopping, taking a long drive, and dreaming about everything that life could bring her next. She spent her entire life doing anything she could to help those in need. Irene's giving nature was a beautiful thing to behold. Her determination and I can do it attitude helped her achieve everything she ever wanted in life, and more.

Irene is survived by her sons, Doug Hunter (Deborah) and Stephen Hunter (Connie Myers); daughter, Cindy Downes; grandsons, Douglas Hunter II (Alisha) and Matthew Hunter; and one great-granddaughter, Anna Hunter.

In addition to her late husband, William O. Hunter, Jr. "Nipsy," she was preceded in death by her brothers Calvin, Ray and Leonard Willoughby; and her twin sisters, Madeline Clough and Pauline Dulin. During the early stages of coping with dementia, Irene was preceded in death by her best friend, Barbara Murphy of Easton. Their laughter, wit, and smiles will forever live in the minds of all who knew them.

Irene's burial will be private due to Covid-19. A celebration of her life with

family and friends will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Mrs. Hunter can may be made to The Talbot Senior Center, 400 Brookletts Avenue, Easton, Maryland 21601, or Compass Regional Hospice, 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617. In addition, the family asks everyone to smile. It is something she always encouraged everyone to do.

Tribute Wall



“ Irene Willoughby Hunter

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Irene Willoughby Hunter

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Irene Willoughby Hunter

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I have known Irene all of my life. She graduated with my sister and they were good friends for many years. I did not know she had been ill and that she was at the Homestead which is close to where I live. She was always a VERY SPECIAL lady to me and my family and my heart aches for the thought of her loss. The world loss someone who was amazing. My husband and I want to send our deepest sympathy to her family and let them know how special we think she was. I will keep your family and Irene in my thoughts and prayers.



Vicki & Jack King

Vicki King - September 11, 2020 at 10:08 AM

JK

“ *Jane KETCHEM lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Jane KETCHEM - July 30, 2020 at 08:30 PM

JK

To Doug and family, I just heard the news through the '79 grapevine - so sorry for your loss. What a perfect obit - I didn't know your mother, but those lovely words painted a picture of a gracious lady and a full life. God bless.

Jane KETCHEM - July 30, 2020 at 08:34 PM

LG

“ *Lee Ireland George lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Lee Ireland George - July 30, 2020 at 10:14 AM

BS

“ *Barbara And David South lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Barbara and David South - July 29, 2020 at 07:28 PM

BN

“ *Bob And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Bob and Genevieve Norris - July 29, 2020 at 02:47 PM

SM

“ *Irene and I were best friends . We both lived at the Centreville Wharf we went thru school together. My mother Catherine Walls was Doug sitter and all time friend. I will miss her so much but know she is in a better place.*

SHIRLEY MIDDLETON - July 29, 2020 at 11:16 AM

GC

“ *Gene & Lynda Palmatary, Centreville sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*

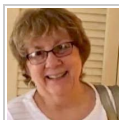


Gene & Lynda Palmatary, Centreville - July 29, 2020 at 08:34 AM

LP

Always enjoyed seeing Irene in Easton over the years and chatting. She is enjoying her life in heaven now and talking to all of her friends. Thinking of the family in our prayers and thoughts. God Bless. Gene and Lynda Palmatary, Centreville.

Lynda Palmatary - July 30, 2020 at 08:54 AM



Had so much fun on Pinehurst Circle with Irene

Gail Yourison - July 31, 2020 at 10:11 AM

PF

“ *Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Phil Foster - July 29, 2020 at 04:05 AM

TF

“ *Mrs. Hunter was always so real and grounded. She always made me feel like part of the family. She opened her home to me and my fiance for our pre- marriage party without hesitation . I'll always hold her special name for me close.....Pretty Boy , even though it wasn't true...lol. Love You Reenee! R.I.P.*



Tim Filbird and family - July 28, 2020 at 10:26 PM

JN

“ *Joan Paul-Nichols lit a candle for Mrs. Irene Hunter.*



Joan Paul- Nichols - July 28, 2020 at 09:43 PM

JC

“ *Jane Coppage lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



Jane Coppage - July 28, 2020 at 07:44 PM

PD

“ *Patricia Davis lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*

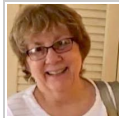


Patricia Davis - July 28, 2020 at 07:14 PM

PD

Irene, Barbara Murphy and I have shared many a happy time. We were both coworkers and friends. She will be missed.

Patricia Davis - July 28, 2020 at 07:16 PM



Had so much fun with Irene when she lived on Pinehurst Circle

Gail Yourison - July 31, 2020 at 10:14 AM

JC

“ *June Clark lit a candle in memory of Irene Willoughby Hunter*



June Clark - July 28, 2020 at 06:47 PM