



Margaret Ann Walbert

November 26, 1940 - January 2, 2025

Margaret Ann (“Peggy”) Walbert (nee Rothermel), passed away peacefully in her sleep, in the presence of family, on January 2, 2025, at Country Meadows Retirement Community in Frederick, Maryland. She was 84.

Peggy was born on November 26, 1940, the daughter of Irvin Lewis Rothermel, a Corporal with the Pennsylvania State Police, and Charlotte Emily (McLaughlin) Rothermel, of Shoemakersville, Pennsylvania. In 1950 the family moved to the charming Pennsylvania borough of Doylestown, where Peggy would spend the remainder of her childhood. During her formative years there, she fell in love with dancing and piano, became a gifted student of classical ballet, and even studied at the Professional Children’s School in New York City on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, dreaming of having her own studio one day.

When she wasn’t pirouetting on Broadway and West, she and her older brother George spent summers at the family lakeside cabin in the mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania, sitting cross-legged by a turntable listening to 45’s of “the Twist,” “Purple People Eater,” and other popular songs of the late 1950’s. She made many friends there at Dingman’s Ferry, and developed a life-long affinity for mountains and the serenity offered by their majesty.

In 1961, at the behest of a family friend, one of mom’s dance performances

was attended by a dashing young Marylander – a veterinarian and cross country pilot by the name of Donald T. Walbert. After the show, Peggy and Donald were introduced to each other by Don's sister, Virginia, and that was that. On February 17, 1962, our petite, lithe ballet dancer Margaret Ann Rothermel married Donald, and in rather short order the family expanded from two to seven. Don and Peg would remain married for 62 years until his passing on July fourth of 2024.

And here's where Peggy's legacy became cemented as a wife and mother of two sons and three daughters ("five in under five" was her battle cry). From diapers to driving, from crying to college, over the next 23 years Peg traded her dreams of dancing on Broadway for the rugged challenge of raising five children - without a single fatality. She was a master in the kitchen of a twenty-one meals plan, an after-school-activity taxi service sans pareil, and an exceptional overseer of curfews, homework, and the countless other minutiae that comes with being Mom. And that was just Monday through Friday.

When not tracking down her offspring, Peggy loved tennis, swimming, and piano – and formally taught all of those activities to us (her children) and to other children in organized settings. She was a gifted socialite who taught us which fork to use and the subtle skill of engaging in intelligent conversation. She was a voracious reader, and constantly encouraged us to become the same. Most of all, she was able to sculpt for her children the fondest childhood memories possible.

She was the very best.

Eventually, her children became self-sufficient and blazed their collective trail to Washington College in Chestertown, MD. Peggy also found herself at WC as an employee in the institution's Development Department. Before long, she was enrolled in classes and marching towards a degree. In May of 1989, at

the tender age of 49, she strode across the stage at commencement to accept her B.A. in History. Moments later her oldest son walked across the same stage for his diploma. It was a proud moment for both. Peggy went on to earn her M.S. in History, and at West Virginia University completed all work other than her dissertation towards a Ph.D. in Quaker history.

Peggy is predeceased by her husband of sixty-two years, Donald, and her parents, Irvin and Charlotte Rothermel. She is survived by her five children: Tim Walbert (Natalie), Beth Pinder (Michael), Holly Hamann, Andy Walbert (Diana), and Valerie Bodnar; seven grandchildren; her brother, George McLaughlin; nephew Guy Rothermel; and nieces Meg Garner and Joan Kaiser.

Visitation will be at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 S. Liberty Street, Centreville, MD, on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., immediately followed by a funeral service at the same location. Interment will be at Old Wye Church Cemetery, 14114 Old Wye Mills Rd., Wye Mills, MD.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Maryland's beautiful Adkins Arboretum, surrounded by (but separate from) Tuckahoe State Park, one of Peg and Don's very favorite places to hike, reflect, and revel together in its simple splendor.

Cemetery Details

Old Wye Church Cemetery

Wye Mills, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 17, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 16, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Walbert.*



January 14, 2025 at 10:02 AM

JK

“ Before all the cousins arrived, Peggy taught me how to do a handstand, and whistle with two fingers. How fun was that for a 10 year old niece!

Joan G Kaiser - January 14, 2025 at 09:09 AM

DR

“ Members of Third Haven Friends Meeting have missed Peggy's presence in more recent years and have fond memories of her good humor and kind heart.

D Rein - January 11, 2025 at 04:50 PM

BP

“ Bill And Norma Patton lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert



Bill and Norma Patton - January 11, 2025 at 02:33 PM

DW

“ My sincere condolences to the Walbert family. Let the memories carry you forever.



Dani Roser Woodhurst - January 10, 2025 at 08:28 PM

LD

“ *Linda Doub lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Linda Doub - January 10, 2025 at 01:15 AM

NT

“ *Nancy Toy lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Nancy Toy - January 09, 2025 at 05:50 PM

WH

“ *Wendy Hampton sent a virtual gift in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Wendy Hampton - January 09, 2025 at 12:24 PM

MW

“ *Marian Walbert Wyble lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert*



Marian Walbert Wyble - January 09, 2025 at 10:04 AM

PF

“ Pam Fallon lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert



Pam Fallon - January 09, 2025 at 09:02 AM

JO

“ Joanderson2243@yahoo.com lit a candle in memory of Margaret Ann Walbert



joanderson2243@yahoo.com - January 08, 2025 at 10:47 AM