



Marillyn Maxted Higgins Olmstead "Perky"

August 19, 1918 - September 6, 2009

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Born in Western Springs Illinois, Marillyn was the second child and only daughter of Evaline Ruth Horner and Frederick John Maxted. In the late -1930s, the family moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, where Marillyn finished high school. She graduated from Connecticut College in New London in 1940 with a B.A. in Home Economics. In 1941 she received a degree in Nutrition from Merritt College in Detroit, Michigan. In college, she acquired the name Perky that followed her throughout her life, a tribute to her indefatigable energy and upbeat temperament.

She worked as a dietician in New Haven before marrying Edmund Fessenden "Ted" Higgins on March 6th 1943. The couple moved to the Philadelphia area and raised their children in Penn Valley and Gladwyne. Ted dies tragically November 12, 1962, leaving her a widow with four children, the youngest several weeks shy of his ninth birthday. In June 1992, largely because she and Ted had once owned a summer home on Quaker Neck, she moved to Heron Point in Chestertown, M.D. On April 10th, 1994, she married William W. "Bill" Olmstead, who died July 19th, 2003.

An accomplished birder, she was a founding member of the Riverbend Environmental Education Center, in Gladwyne, PA, where she served on the

Board of Directors for many years. She was a member of many local birding groups and traveled the world on birding tours. She was active in the Connecticut College Club of Philadelphia, St. Christopher's Church, Gladwyne, and an avid golfer, a member of the Philadelphia Country Club and the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. She is survived by four children: Catherine Ruth Higgins, of Bryn Mawr, P.A.; Margaret Whitney Higgins Bowker, of Bowling Green K.Y.; and Marilyn Higgins Bruce, of Whitefish, Mont.; and Edmund Safford Higgins, of Charleston, S.C.; and six grandchildren: George Edmund Bowker, Richard Higgins Bowker, John Whitney Bowker, Edmund Fessenden Higgins, Grady Anderson Higgins, and Marilyn Vernett Bruce; and by a brother, George Allister Maxted, of Naples, F.L.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October, 10th at 11:00 A.M. in Wesley Hall at Heron Point in Chestertown, MD. Interment will be in Gladwyne, PA at a later date.

Memorials in lieu of flowers should be sent to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, P.O. Box 17447, Baltimore M.D., 21298-9104.

Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
Chestertown, MD www.fhnfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Marillyn Maxted Higgins Olmstead "Perky"

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Marillyn Maxted Higgins Olmstead "Perky"

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Marillyn Maxted Higgins Olmstead "Perky"

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ To the family and friends of, Marillyn Maxted Higgins Olmstead; I am so sorry to hear of your loss, please accept my sincerest condolences. We all know that death is something that plagues all of mankind, no matter our race or age. However, I found it comforting to know that God has provided a way to remedy this world-wide epidemic. The scriptures found at Isaiah 25:8 and Acts 24:15 promise that not only will Jehovah God swallow up our enemy death in the future, but that we will be able to see the ones we have loss once again. We all are looking forward to that day when we will be able to touch our dear one's face again, but until then may these scriptures help you draw comfort in your time of deep sorrow.##imported-begin##ms. brown##imported-end##

October 22, 2009 at 06:49 PM



“ To the entire family,

On behalf of the Connecticut College Community, please accept our condolences on your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

*Sincerely,
Bridget McShane
Director of Alumni Relations
Connecticut College
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320##imported-begin##Connecticut
College##imported-end##*

September 18, 2009 at 03:25 PM



“ To all of Perky's family, My deepest sympathy. May this time move quickly, with all the wonderful memories you have. May God keep you in his gentle arms and shine all of Perky's goodness upon you. Working at Heron Point we meet such wonderful caring people and the hardest part of our job is learning how to deal with the loss of our residents. Perky will remain in my memories forever. Fondly,
Lydia##imported-begin##Lydia Conroy##imported-end##

September 10, 2009 at 08:32 AM



“ To all of Perkie's wonderful family my heart goes out to you for your loss. To our precious Lord who made this beautiful, caring lady, I praise him and thank Him for allowing Perkie to touch so many of our lives. She brought me such joy when I worked at Heron Point. I have such beautiful memories of her which I cherish. I pray the Lord will wrap His arms of comfort around all of you at this difficult time. With all my heartfelt sympathy,
Karen##imported-begin##Karen Hickman##imported-end##

September 09, 2009 at 09:35 PM