



Martha Jean West

January 18, 1934 - July 1, 2025

Martha Jean Ellis West

January 18th, 1934 - July 1st, 2025

Martha Jean Ellis was born at home on January 18, 1934, in Fairmont, WV to Lemma Ann Layman Ellis and Robert Dale Ellis.

She graduated as salutatorian from East Fairmont High School in 1952 before moving to Washington, D.C. to work for the FBI. She married A. Howard West on February 7, 1953. They raised their four children in Brentwood and Bladensburg, MD. Martha earned her college degree from Prince George's Community College. She retired from Sussman Podiatry and moved to Chestertown in 1989.

Martha enjoyed many adventures in her life. She took trips with Howard and her brother, Robert, to many places in the United States and destinations abroad such as Greece, Israel, Egypt, and Bermuda. Some of her favorite travel memories were the 5 years she was able to spend dog sitting in Hawaii with her daughter, Diane.

Martha spent her retirement traveling, volunteering with Hope Fellowship Church (including completing her first mission trip in her 80s), attending writing workshops at the Amy Lynn Ferris Senior Center, and tending to her yard and gardens. She cared for her husband and son, David, in their last years as they both succumbed to cancer and dutifully took over the role of servant to David's dog, Sierra. Martha spent daily time with the Lord and hosted a prayer group and bible study at her home.

Martha will be greeted in heaven by her parents, “Mother” and “Daddy”, her husband, her sons Mark and David, daughter-in-law Ruth, son-in-law Patrick Kent, and grandson Robert West. She is survived by her daughter Sharon and her husband Ernie Dennison, daughter Diane Kent, granddaughter Rebekah West (all of La Plata, MD), granddaughter Rachel and her husband Pastor Timothy Davis of Chestertown, grandson Ernie Dennison, Jr. and great-grandson Ernie James Dennison of Delmar, MD, sister Melba Lough and brother Robert Ellis both of Fairmont, WV, nieces and their families Deborah (Kenny), Jeannie (Jay), Patricia (Jimmy), Beverly (Mark), Brenda (Duane), her extended Davis/Huff family with whom she became especially close, cousins, and many, many friends.

Martha’s two greatest joys were her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and her family. She could write and tell the best stories. There is a rich legacy of generational knowledge and genuine faith for her family to inherit.

Martha was a long-time member and elder of Hope Fellowship Church in Chestertown. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the church’s Building Fund: ctownhope.com PO BOX 579 Chestertown, MD 21620.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JUL 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Burial

JUL 8 (ET)

Crumpton Cemetery
Crumpton, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Martha Jean West*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 08, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha Jean West*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 03, 2025 at 12:35 PM

MS

“ *Thank you for the beautiful light you shared and your example of the beauty of a lifetime relationship with the Lord. You always radiated kindness to us. Love the Stuebings*



Melissa Stuebing - July 16, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CJ

“ I'm sorry for your loss. I know my Mom always enjoyed their chats.

Thinking of you.
Carolyn Kirby Jordan

Carolyn Jordan - July 11, 2025 at 04:59 PM

LI

“ *Luisa's Cucina Italiana lit a candle in memory of Martha Jean West*



Luisa's Cucina Italiana - July 06, 2025 at 04:09 PM

RK

“ *Rachel's co-workers KCDSS purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Martha Jean West.*



Rachel's co-workers KCDSS - July 05, 2025 at 10:46 PM

DS

“ *When returning from a vacation i found a note attached to my door to the office reading West West West and sussman in little print and i felt like i was fired. Diane do you remember?*

Derby J Sussman - July 05, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DS

“ My wife, Betsy, arranged for a family reunion, the first one ever, that I know of. My cousins from W. Va. came. Everyone got into swimming suits, and we floated on tubes or in a huge floating tube and went down the Muskegon River. Martha joined right in and enjoyed herself. It was so great to have that reunion, and now Betsy, my son Rob, and Martha all have passed, but we have that wonderful memory of them to cherish.

Don Sherman - July 04, 2025 at 09:11 AM

GK

“ Glenda & Will Kelly lit a candle in memory of Martha Jean West



Glenda & Will Kelly - July 03, 2025 at 04:11 PM

CM

“ To Martha's family. My sincerest love and sympathy, you had the greatest Mom and Nanna ever. She loved the Lord and her family more than anything. I have lost one of my best friends. My days will not be the same without our daily emails. But we have that blessed assurance that we will see her again one day. Love to you all, Cathy

Cathy Maxwell - July 03, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SM

“ Stacey Morris lit a candle in memory of Martha Jean West



Stacey Morris - July 02, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JW

“ *Josie Elburn Wersten lit a candle in memory of Martha Jean West*



Josie Elburn Wersten - July 02, 2025 at 06:38 PM

LM

“ *I know no one lives forever, but I wasn't ready to let her go. Mrs. Martha was so precious to me. I called her one of my Golden Girls. She sent me sweet cards and gave me a beautiful cross that now hangs in my office. She even bought my book and had Rachel get it signed for her. That meant so much to me.*

Mrs. Martha was such a joy to be around. Her voice was always full of happiness. I remember celebrating her 90th birthday at her home and being moved by all the love and the stories that were shared that day. I'll never forget her, and will truly miss seeing her at church on Sundays.

Lisa Moody



Lisa Moody - July 02, 2025 at 04:47 PM