



Merrilyn J. Knud-Hansen

October 8, 1920 - October 9, 2014

Surrounded by love, having lived a full and happy life, Merrillyn Josephine Olson (Slack) Knud-Hanson passed away on October 9, 2014, at Hospice of Queen Anne's County.

Merrilyn Josephine Olson was born to Minnie (Ann) and Merrill Dean Olson on October 8, 1920, in Stoughton, WI. The older sister of Jack Dean Olson, she spent most of her school years in Madison, WI.

She attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she was an official "Badger Beauty" and was profiled in the October 16, 1939, issue of Life magazine. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in French in 1942.

While a freshman at University of Wisconsin, she met her future husband, fellow student Carstens Slack, and they married on June 13, 1942. Merrillyn lived with Carstens' parents in New York City for several months while he was a Navy officer onboard a destroyer escort off the Atlantic Coast. When he returned, he began his career at Phillips Petroleum Company. From the time of her marriage until her husband's retirement from Phillips in July, 1983, she moved her family to homes in Ohio, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, and Washington, DC, in support of her husband's career. Her most memorable move was from Bartlesville, OK, in 1960, when she moved four children to Bethesda, MD, to join Carstens, who was Vice President for Government Relations for Phillips. Merrillyn relished her responsibility as a

caregiver, and she loved being home to welcome her children from school each day. She was also an invaluable partner to Carstens on the Washington social scene.

In July 1983, with their children grown, Marilyn and Carstens retired to Waverly Island in Easton, and they never looked back across the Bay Bridge. Carstens passed away in 1990 and in 1993, Marilyn married Dr. John I. F. Knud-Hansen. She was welcomed warmly by his family, and Marilyn and John enjoyed a wonderfully active life filled with travel, golf, laughter and love. Marilyn was also devoted to golfing with her friends at Talbot Country Club, where she played until she had to give up the game at 87 years old. One of her proudest golfing accomplishments was making two holes-in-one on the same hole and within six weeks, when she was 76 years old.

Marilyn's greatest joy in life was her family. Her most fulfilling moments involved activities such as serving as the informational "hub", bringing each family member up to date on what the others were doing; crafting needlework projects for her children and grandchildren; or making her special onion slaw and potato salad for the annual trip to Bethany Beach – a family tradition that endured for almost 50 years.

Marilyn will be especially remembered for her beautiful, warm smile. She was a strong, capable woman who was deeply grateful for all the love in her life. Survivors include her brother, Jack D. Olson of CA, son Stephen Slack (Anne) of Easton, MD, and daughters, Srimati Kamala of Washington, DC, Susan Skinner (Bob) of Ellicott City, Sherrill (Buz) Koelbel of Denver, CO; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family would like to acknowledge Marilyn's Knud-Hansen stepchildren, John, Chris, Erik, and Emilie and their children, and Linda Laramy for their consistent love and dedication, continuing even after the death of Dr. Knud-

Hansen.

The family would especially like to thank the wonderful caregivers at Heartfields in Easton, Talbot County Hospice, Hospice of Queen Anne's County, and her dedicated trainer, Carrie Edelen, for their devoted care.

A service in thanksgiving for the life of Merrilyn will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Easton on Friday October 17, 2014, at 2 p.m., followed by a reception at the Talbot Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to Talbot County Hospice in memory of Merrilyn.

Tribute Wall



“ *Merrilyn J. Knud-Hansen*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Merrilyn J. Knud-Hansen*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Merrilyn J. Knud-Hansen*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM