



## Susan Marie Riley

January 8, 1949 - May 24, 2021

Susan Marie Riley, 72, of Chester, Maryland, and formerly of Woolwich, Maine passed away on May 24, 2021 after a courageous 13-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Born on January 8, 1949, in Glen Cove, Long Island, New York, she was the daughter of Cortland Oliver Burckhardt and Elaine Pollock Burckhardt. Susan was raised in Huntington, NY, where she graduated from Harborfields High School in Greenlawn, NY. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Oklahoma.

In 1973, Susan married Benjamin P. Riley III, and they spent more than 47 happy years together. In the early years of their marriage, Susan taught and worked in the public-school systems. She was a dedicated Navy wife, generously supporting her husband's Navy career, which involved frequent family relocations along the East Coast.

Susan was a devoted mother and grandmother, who enjoyed making a home for her husband and children. An accomplished cook and gardener, her extensive flower gardens were the envy of many. Susan cherished her years living in Maine and her many visits back to her adopted home state, where she kept in close touch with lifelong friends. Susan's greatest commitment and love was focused on her children and grandchildren. Her charge to her husband and children was to stay close to and support each other after her passing.

Susan is survived by her husband Benjamin Riley, sons Benjamin (Katie), and Travis (Larissa), daughter Katherine (Raymond), and nine grandchildren: Maeve, Benjamin, Patrick, James, Thomas, Nicholas, Henry, Grace and Samuel. In addition to her parents, she is pre-deceased by her sister Jane Burckhardt.

A private memorial service will be held at a future time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation or GiGi's Playhouse, Annapolis.

For online tributes, please visit [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Susan Marie Riley*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Susan Marie Riley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Susan Marie Riley*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *July 5, 2021*

*Dear Rack, and Family,*

*Please accept our profound condolences on the death of Susan. We just heard of her passing and can't express our sorrow at what all of you must be feeling. It takes a long time to move out of the grieving state, as we have experienced. We will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. May the beautiful memories that you have of such a beautiful soul keep you comforted in this difficult time. Love, Joan, Ron, and Family and Massachusetts Relatives.*

Joan and Ron Kokernak - July 05, 2021 at 11:19 AM

*Married to Liz, one of the three sister's of Susan's husband Ben Riley, I enjoy remembering episodes of our visits, at least yearly, to see Ben and Sue and their growing family in the various places, as a military family, that they called home. Indeed Liz and I were still dating (it took 5 years for her to say "yes") when together we first visited Ben (or "Rack" as the family fondly called him) and Sue and their growing family down in Virginia Beach where Ben seems to have been stationed for a time.*

*It was just a short visit to Virginia Beach, and I think Rack may have been away at the base. I wound up playing with Sue's two young boys, Ben Jr. and Travis, which turned out to be a whale of a lot of fun, if you can handle the possibility of having your teeth knocked out. Somehow what started out as calm play turned into a thunderous assault by the two feisty boys as though they were hitting the beach like gun-ho Marines determined to over run the position I held behind a couple pillows with back to the wall. Now I had played frequently with my nieces and nephews in Massachusetts so I thought I had good training for this sort of mayhem, but darned if those boys didn't give me all I could handle and more. Well they kind of refused to quit until Sue called for an end to my drubbing. She definitely saved me that time. Thank you Sue!*

*And there was another occasion, after Liz and I were married - finally. We had driven down to Maine on our way home from Canada having spent a week in Quebec and the Maritimes after our wedding in 1983. Ben and Sue's home in Bath was a wonderful old farmhouse on acres of lovely fresh green grass and large granite boulder walls which wound thru tall sturdy pine and maple trees, and with that special fragrance, was it maple syrup?, floating pungent in the cool clean sunlit air.*

*Liz and I were having some fun with the kids - Ben, Travis and Katie in the yard (I had not been assaulted by them yet - but was looking forward to it!). However, needing a time out I headed inside for the first time to find the bathroom and walked into (as I remember it) an arching hallway to view a rather dramatic staircase to the right which descended from the floor above down to an open room below, beautifully decorated with interesting and lovely tables, lamps, chests of drawers, numerous nick-knacks, original framed paintings and fascinating antiques positioned here and there in perfect harmony. But what really drew my attention (besides trying to figure out just where the heck the bathroom was) were the colorful and exquisitely stenciled border art cascading high up along the walls. They were fresh and stunning, and I couldn't take my eyes off them. Suddenly Sue, perhaps hearing my approach, appeared on the balcony and headed down the stairs and may have been a bit surprised and perhaps embarrassed with my exuberant comments to her on the beauty of the room, and particularly the stenciling which greatly illuminated the effect. I asked about it and was even more impressed when she told me, with a demure but pleased smile, that she had done them all. Wow! I again tried to convey to her how much I liked*

*and admired her crafting ability and the effect they produced, and she responded with a blush of appreciation.*

*As it turned out, from that point on I always felt a kindred spirit with Sue. It was clear, at the time, she was sort of uncomfortable with my perhaps excessive admiration of her art, and being as modest as she was didn't want to dwell on it, but ever after that I always felt a connection to her, perhaps an appreciative artistic link, so much so that from then on I could always feel it in her welcome and smile when we would greet each other at family gatherings.*

*I'm thinking of that look now and how I miss it especially in the last years of her life as it slowly faded away due to her condition. But I will always remember that smile.*

*Thank you Sue.*



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**Thomas Newman** - June 15, 2021 at 05:10 PM

RL

“ So very sorry to read of Susan’s passing. I remember fondly your entire family from my days as a fifth grade teacher in Woolwich. It was obvious the love and caring that filled your lives together. May that love and caring surround in the days ahead. May God comfort you and bring you peace. **Becky Lenz**”

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**Rebecca Lenz** - June 10, 2021 at 03:01 PM

BT

*We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend Susan. Susan’s love for her grandbabies will forever be in my heart. The recipes we shared will be cherished and the great conversations and visits will always remain within my heart. Love you Susan!*



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**Bettie Toppi** - June 13, 2021 at 01:19 PM