



S. Gertrude Tharp

MAR 20, 1917 - MAY 14, 2011



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S Gertrude Tharp “Gertie”, age 94, a native Delawarean and long time resident of Lewes, Delaware, passed away peacefully into Gods hands, (under Compassionate Care Hospice) at the Cadbury Rehabilitation Center in Lewes, on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

She was born March 20, 1917 to Harry and Matilda Davis of Little Creek, Delaware. She was raised on a farm there. There were four other siblings, Russell, Beatrice, Ruth and Margaret. Gertie, as she preferred to be called, began her education in 1922 at a small octagonal school near her home by the name of "Cowgills Corner. From there she went on to complete her education at Dover High School. Shortly thereafter, on June 30, 1934, Gertie married Frank H. Tharp and on September 15, 1934 moved to Lewes, Delaware where she lived until her death.

In 1936 she joined the Lewes Presbyterian Church and quickly became a very active participant in the various organizations and government of the church. She was a dedicated choir member for fifteen years and a charter member of the Kelly Class becoming one of the oldest members of her church.

Gertie made numerous accomplishments throughout her long life. In 1953 she won the sixth annual National Chicken Cooking Contest. She developed a keen interest in the political arena serving as a Democratic Committee Woman for the 4th district (1955- 81), Delaware State Vice-Chairperson (1970-78), organized the first Democratic Club of Lewes (1956), two four year terms as Sussex County Prothonotary, and ran as a candidate for State Treasurer (1974).

She was a dietary supervisor at Beebe Medical Center from 1955-1980 retiring after 25 years of service. She also joined the Beebe Auxiliary in 1955 where she provided many volunteer hours and served as their Parliamentarian for many years. Gertie joined the Lewes Zwaanendael Club (GSFWC) in 1950 where she participated in many offices, roles, and activities of the organization.



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Gertie continued to operate the family business, Tharp's Storage Business after her husbands' death in 1998 until 2008. Her family is most proud of her dedication and commitment to serve her community, church, many organizations, and family.

Gertie was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Frank H Tharp (1998) and daughter Joan R. Hopkins (2006).

She is survived by her son, Alvin H. Tharp and wife Ollie of Milton, Delaware and daughter Nancy L. Brock and husband James of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. She is also survived by eight grandchildren James Tharp, Teresa Tharp Scott, Bruce Hopkins, Dale Hopkins, Jay Hopkins, Wendy Brock Rose, Stacey Brock Watkins, Holly Brock Laptew and twelve great grandchildren, Katie Scott, Krista Scott, Kaleb Scott, Kimberlyn Scott, Natalie Hopkins, Monica Hopkins, Abigale Hopkins, Amanda Hopkins, Bryce Hopkins, Brock Rose, Bethany Rose, Braxton Rose.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday May 19, 2011 at 11:00 AM at the Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE where visitation will be one hour prior to services. Visitation will also be held on Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Barretts Chapel Cemetery in Frederica, Delaware at 3:30 PM on Thursday May 19, 2011.

In lieu of flowers, contributions would be appreciated to: Beebe School of Nursing Scholarship Fund, 424 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE. 19958 or the Lewes Presbyterian Church Building Fund, 133 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958

PDF Printable Version



Tribute Wall

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CU

Chuck And Maxine Ungerbuehler posted:

Chuck and I are unable to attend the viewing and funeral together so he will be at the viewing (since I will be out of town) and I will be at the funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the extended family. Gertie was an example for all of us.

May 18 at 8:00 PM

RK

Ruth Opdyke Kreer posted:

Aunt Gertie was a wonderful bright star in life. My warmest sympathy goes to all the family. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. God Bless her and her family.

May 18 at 8:00 PM

LF

Lisa Fivecoate posted:

Aunt Gertie was a wonderful women and will be truely missed. I love you all - you are in my thoughts and prayers.Love, Lisa

May 17 at 8:00 PM

MF

Marjorie F. Frampton posted:

I will miss Gertie. We were together in the Zwaanendael Club for many years. She always was a positive person. She never spoke negative about anyone. She is now at peace. Miss you Gertie, Marge Frampton

May 17 at 8:00 PM

MO

Mary Opdyke posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family. Gertie was a wonderful, fun-loving lady and will be missed by all who knew her.So very sorry for your loss.Billy and Mary Opdyke

May 17 at 8:00 PM

GS

Ginny Small posted:

Gertie has been a long and wonderful friend. We will miss her very much. Especially in the Kelly Class, which is having their annual sale. Gertie has been such a very important part of the group

May 17 at 8:00 PM



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JL

Joyce Lynch Layton posted:

Thoughts and prayers to Ms Gertie family. I can see her singing in the choir at church with my Dad George.

May 17 at 8:00 PM

BP

Barbara Peterson posted:

Sending my thoughts and sympathy to you, Nancy, and family. Wonderful, wonderful memories going back 40 years.

May 16 at 8:00 PM

NR

Naomi L Rickards posted:

My prayers go out to the family. Have known Gertie for a long time. She worked at Beebe when my mother worked there. A wonderful person.

May 15 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring S. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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