



# Josephine B. van Es

NOV 17, 1924 - SEP 12, 2022



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## **Josephine B. van Es**

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**J**osephine Brittingham van Es, age 97 of Lewes, DE passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, September 12, 2022. She was born on November 17, 1924, in Lewes, DE, daughter of the late William Herald and Mary Frances (Atkins) Brittingham.

Josephine graduated high school and then continued her studies at Goldey - Beacom College in Wilmington, DE for a short stint. On March 11, 1944, she married the love of her life, Hendrik A. van Es at Lewes Presbyterian Church. They were married for 31 years until his untimely death at age 56. She built a career as a cosmetic buyer and assistant store manager at Strawbridge and Clothier in Springfield, PA.

Josephine handled membership drives at Drexelbrook Club and was the vice president of the PTA in Drexel Hill, PA. She was also involved in multiple fundraising events, including the American Heart Association in Delaware County, PA. After her retirement, Josephine enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and listening to audio books. She lived independently in her own home at the Plantations in Lewes until late June 2022, when she suffered a stroke and a short battle with congestive heart failure. Above all, Josephine loved spending time with those she held most dear. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, aunt, and grandmother. Loved by many, she will be deeply missed by all who had the good fortune to know her.

Her daughter Karen wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Judy Melson and Tammy Serman in the care of her mother, especially in the final two weeks of Josephine's life.

In addition to her parents, Josephine was predeceased by her husband, Hendrik van Es; her sisters, Geraldine Montgomery, and Claudia Melson; and her brother, William Herald Brittingham, Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Karen van Es (David Main) of Great Falls, VA; her granddaughters: Anna Main (Peter Shanley) and Katherine Carman (Jeremy) and their children; her brother, David Richard Brittingham; her nephew, JB Melson (Judy); her nieces: Tammy



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Serman (David); Sara Catherine Bakehorn; Sandra London (Vic), and Jacqueline Sterling (Greg).  
A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donation in Josephine's memory to a children's or animal welfare charity of your choosing, or Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



## Tribute Wall

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**Valerie O'connor** lit a candle in honor of Josephine.



January 19 at 7:27 AM



**Judith A Devine** posted:

Jo was a joy to know and work with at Strawbridge & Clothier. She was my Assistant in the Springfield store in Cosmetics before I left & she took over. She will be remembered in my prayers.

September 26 at 7:10 AM



**Richard Conrad** posted:

I enjoyed the time we were able to spend together. She was always interested in knowing how everyone in the family was doing. Aunt DoeDoe was a special person and will be deeply missed.  
Richard Conrad

September 22 at 12:23 PM



**Ann Kaplan** posted:

Remembering Jo for the wonderful care she took of my sweet puppy dog, Scruffy, many years ago when my family went to Greece for 2 weeks. Scruffy adored her and Karen said she looked so sad in the car leaving Jo behind. Although I don't believe we ever saw each other after that, I kept in touch through my dear friend of 50 years her daughter. She was a wonderful mother and I know will be missed so much by the entire family. Ann Kaplan, Manteo, N.C.

September 22 at 11:04 AM



**Bill Conrad** posted:

To me, "Aunt DoDo" was always the example of grace and kindness I wish the world could be. I could spend all day just listening to her tell stories and simply be in her presence. Everyone who knew her can't help but be a better person today.

September 21 at 5:16 PM



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**Karen Van Es** posted:

I was blessed to have the most wonderful mother. Glad to have shared her with the world. love you, Mom

September 21 at 5:17 AM



**Tammy Serman** posted:

I will miss you more than you will ever know. The love and care you showed me over the years will live in my heart forever ❤️

September 17 at 6:14 AM



**Valerie O'connor** January 19 at 7:22 AM

Aunt Jo was my Mother's Aunt (by marriage). She was a beautiful soul. My family loved her so much. She was the sweetest lady, very classy and loving. She lived her life without her husband for many many years. The reunion was probably wonderful for both of them. She will be missed.



**Arlene Soukey** September 21 at 3:56 PM

She was a very sweet lady.



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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