



Elizabeth Evalyn Walch

FEB 26, 1932 - SEP 4, 2025



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Elizabeth "Evalyn" Thompson Walch, age 93, passed away peacefully on September 4, 2025.

Evalyn was born and raised on a farm in Smithland, Kentucky, daughter of the late Minnie Lindsey Thompson and Willis Barney Thompson Sr. As a child and teen she adored reading, spending time outdoors, and riding horses. In the early 1950s, she met her future husband, Anthony (Tony) Walch, Jr., a soldier on leave from the Korean War. They married and moved to his home in Gambrills, Maryland, where they continued to live until they retired and moved to Onancock, Virginia in 1987.

Evalyn was passionate about gardening - she never met a plant that didn't thrive under her care! After raising her family, she enrolled in college courses at the age of 45 and earned an Associate Degree in Horticulture and Greenhouse Management from the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture. As a nursery worker she specialized in raising orchids, herbs, and roses, and in 1984 she designed the original Historic Fisher-Martin Herb Garden that still exists in Zwaanendael Park in Lewes, Delaware.

After retirement, Evalyn and Tony realized a lifelong dream by purchasing a 120-acre farm on Pungoteague Creek on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Working together, they placed the farm into a permanent conservation easement with the Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust and created showplace gardens and wildlife habitats that were featured in garden tours and magazines. She was also a very active member of the Virginia Orchid Society and Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church. Evalyn lived her last few years in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, to be closer to family.

Evalyn was a strong, gentle, talented, and generous woman who loved her family above all else. When asked what she was proudest of in her life, Evalyn always listed her 65-year marriage, her daughters and granddaughter, and her legacy in preserving forever the natural beauty and habitat



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of their Onancock farm. Her family and friends will always remember her doing the things she loved best - gardening, reading, sewing, crabbing, and birdwatching.

Evalyn was preceded in death by her husband, Tony, and siblings: Charles, Willis 'Pete' Jr, and Marjorie. She is survived by her two daughters: Marianne Walch and Sandra West; granddaughter Joanna Lonergan, and two great grandchildren.

A private memorial is planned. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Evalyn's memory to the Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust (veslt.org), or to Delaware Hospice, <https://delawarehospice.org>.

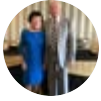
Please sign the tribute wall located on this website.



Tribute Wall

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Shirley Walch posted:

I first met Evie when I married into the Walch family, as her sister in law. She was always very accepting of me. We had many good times: Carl helping to build the house on the shore, fishing, crabbing, and just relaxing at their house on the shore. Evie's gardens were a thing of beauty. She was very talented. After they moved to the shore, they rarely came up our way due, as they hated the traffic and congestion. A fond memory I have was when Evie baked Carl a birthday cake and traveled up our way to celebrate with him. This was to be his last birthday. We will all miss her very much, as she was a very special lady.

September 19 at 2:18 PM



Grace Young posted:

I was privileged enough to know her as Gran. We didn't meet til I was in middle school when her granddaughter, Joanna, and I became friends/sisters. I never knew a love like I found when I would come to stay for the weekend or week. I spent many a holiday as part of the family. I love you Gran. You treated me as part of a family I didn't know I needed. I am so happy that you get to go home to your best friend and husband in heaven.

September 11 at 9:24 AM



Marianne Walch September 15 at 12:56 PM

Thank you, Grace. She loved you too.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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