



Phyllis M. Frick

May 31, 1927 - August 19, 2020

Phyllis M. Frick, age 93, died on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at Delaware Hospice Center in Milford, DE, following a fall from which she did not recover. Born in 1927 while her parents were graduate students at the University of Illinois, she was raised in Decatur, Illinois, “the soybean capital of the world.” Phyllis excelled in school, skipping a grade, and eventually earning a degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. It was there she met her future husband, George, a veteran of World War II, who was a student at St. Olaf College, on a blind date.

Her romance with George took her to Santa Ana, California to work as a Field Director with the Girl Scouts after college, while George began his graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Phyllis and George returned to Decatur and were married in 1950. George’s first position was as a junior high school teacher in rural Illinois, but with the encouragement of his in-laws, he decided to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. During this time in the Midwest, they started their family which would grow to include three children.

George’s career as an historian took the family first to Rutgers University in New Jersey, and then in 1960, they moved to Newark, where he began teaching at the University of Delaware. Phyllis worked in various volunteer and paid positions throughout her adult life including as a volunteer with seniors in New Jersey, a travel coordinator for the Winterim program, and a proofreader for the International Reading Association. An active member of the community, she participated in book group, soup group, bridge group, AAUW, among other interests. She enjoyed gourmet cooking, knitting, sewing, upholstering, and traveling. An unabashed anglophile, she had the chance to live in England several times and enjoyed the exploration of areas off the beaten path-especially if they were accessible by one of the London bus lines.

George and Phyllis moved to Lewes in 1988 to begin their retirement together, but George died suddenly in 1991. Phyllis continued to live in Lewes for the rest of her life.

In Lewes, Phyllis volunteered for the Historical Society at Shipcarpenter Square and as an AARP tax preparer. She also attended classes at the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning. She was a skilled bridge player, up until her final years. Phyllis enjoyed harmonizing as an alto throughout her life, and most recently as a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church choir. Some of her favorite things about Lewes were the Lewes Dairy store, Cape Henlopen State Park, and Kings Ice Cream.

Phyllis is preceded in death by her parents, and brother, along with her husband of 41 years, George. She is survived by her children, Margaret, of Arlington, Virginia; Karl, of Seaford, Delaware; and Elizabeth, of Rockville, Maryland. She is also survived by six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be planned after the pandemic has subsided.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lewes Historical Society, 110 Shipcarpenter Street, Lewes, DE 19958; Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963; or the local food bank of your choice.

Please sign Phyllis' online guestbook located on this site.

Comments



“ I remember Phyllis in Eldermoments class and on various trip outings that we both attended. I remember her great sense of humor and also what a very bright person she was. Have missed her presence at OLLI now for many years.

Barbara Mullin

Barbara Mullin - October 02, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ I was a History Department colleague of George and a neighbor of George and Phyllis in Newark during the 1980s. I well remember that, after George died, Phyllis used to come to History Department lectures and events. She was great fun to chat with, blessed as she was with a wry sense of humor and a matter-of-fact approach to life's challenges. Newarkers remember her love of libraries, and especially her strong commitment to the Newark Free Library. My condolences to Phyllis's family; I remember her with warm fondness.

Anne Boylan, Newark, DE

Anne Boylan - September 12, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ What a wonderful, very funny, being. I enjoyed playing bridge with the U of D wives group and after Phyllis and I moved to Sussex County, we made the trek for the Christmas Bridge. Over the years we've raised a glass in memory of those who are playing bridge in heaven. The ladies will certainly rejoice that Phyllis has joined them. Seven No Trump!

Jan Parsons

jan parsons - September 11, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ I used to sit with Ms Phyllis at Cadbury. We would look at her soup book and talk about the Girl Scouts and how they have changed over the years. I really enjoyed our talks. She was such a cheerful and delightful lady.

Sharon Popo

Sharon Popo - September 10, 2020 at 08:20 PM