



Diane Walker

December 20, 2019

Diane W. Walker, 91, passed peacefully on December 20, 2019 at Saint Mary home West Hartford CT. Born in East Orange, N.J., Diane Eloise Wheaton was the beloved daughter of Henry Clay and Clara Sue. Wheaton, and sister to William Miller Wheaton.

She is a graduate of Clifford Scott High, Edgewood Park Junior College and Parsons. School of Design. She was an accomplished concert pianist, painted in both oil and watercolor; yet her passion was fashion. She worked several years in NYC, at an ad agency as a fashion illustrator, sketching high fashion newspaper clothing ads. She met her husband Joseph R. Gilhooly, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, through her bother Bill at a Sigma Phi Epsilon social.

Diane is survived by her children, Stephen J. Gilhooly and wife Lisa of Falmouth, MA. and Linda G. Quirk and husband Brian of West Hartford, CT. She was the proud and loving "Nan" to grandchildren Terrence A. Gilhooly and wife Haley of Boston, MA., Kimberly Quirk Donovan and husband Patrick of Arlington, VA., Brian A. Quirk and wife Lilitiana of NYC, NY, and Duncan C. Quirk and wife Ashley of Brooklyn, NY, and great grandchildren, Gisele. Quirk, Ian and Ike Donovan, and Evelyn Quirk.

Diane was a longtime resident of Wellesley Hills, MA. and Quail Ridge, Boynton Beach, FL. She was a member of the Wellesley Country Club, Algonquin Club, Oyster Harbor, Quail Ridge and Delray Beach Club. She was an avid tennis player, loved bridge, and enjoyed the arts. She remarried in

1997 and she and her predeceased husband, Robert Walker, enjoyed spending time between Quail Ridge and West Hyannisport, MA. She moved to The McAuley, West Hartford, CT in 2010 to be near her daughter.

Always a lady, Diane was a loving, caring person with an engaging smile for all. Meticulous in who she was and all she did, she made life just a little more beautiful for all.

Service will be at the Molloy Funeral Home, West Hartford, CT, Friday, December 27 from 8:30-9:30 am., and interment will follow at Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth, NJ. At 1:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the Alzheimer's Association: www.alz.org

Cemetery Details

Graceland Memorial Park

1900 Galloping Hill Rd
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 27. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Tribute Wall

HS

“ *To Linda and family...so sorry for your loss. I have vivid memories of your mom. Your daughter has said it best, always a lady. May she Rest In Peace....*
Heidi Scholten Shea

heidi shea - December 27, 2019 at 12:36 PM

“ When I think of Nan my mind turns to egg salad sandwiches with the crust cut off. As an elegant woman known for her St. John Knits, that's probably not the way she would want me to remember her, but a simple sandwich brings back memories of special times with my grandmother. Sitting on the beach on the Cape and playing in the sand with my brothers on a warm summer day. Nan would come down the wood boardwalk with a ridiculously wide-brimmed, yet fashionable, sun visor on her head and a packed lunch of sandwiches and Cape Cod Potato Chips. Nan would always make egg salad when we came to visit in the summer. She knew it was my favorite and it always made me feel special when there was an egg salad sandwich in the cooler for me. We would sit on the beach with our toes in the sand, eat our lunch, and chat about the goings on of her bridge and tennis friends, my friends, school, and ideas and plans for the future She always listened, intently, and asked thoughtful questions, giving you her full attention. Another way she made me feel special.

Nan had a way of making everyone feel special. She lit up the room with her grace and smile and on top of that she could cook. I think one of the ways she showed her love was through taking care of people and making them good food. Whether it was an egg salad sandwich with the perfect amount of finely chopped onion, peach crisp with Four Seas ice cream, Million Dollar Spaghetti, or Mexican Dip she made it with care and served it with love. Everything tasted better when Nan made it. Nan would always make our favorite things when we came to visit. Or, maybe the things she made became our favorites because they were made by her. She served Mexican Dip as an hors d'oeuvre during cocktail hour and it has become a classic in our family. Making the dip best has even become a competitive sport between me and my brothers. Cocktail hour was at five o'clock at Nan's home with delicious snacks and a vodka on the rocks with a twist of lemon. It was a touch class and sophistication to bring everyone together to end the day and transition to dinner. Nan was the epitome of style, sophistication, and grace, with as much love and kindness as one person could

give. She gave her family everything and loved us more than anything.

I am sorry I cannot be here today with my family, but hope we can all take solace in and trust that Nan is in a better place. I hope heaven has an endless supply of Chanel Cha Cha Cha nail polish and matching lipstick and that Nan gets to enjoy cocktails and conversation with her family and friends that arrived before her, maybe even get in a match or two of tennis.

Cheers Nan. I love you and miss you. Lots of love and hugs. May you rest in peace.

xoxo, Kimbie

Kimberly Donovan - December 27, 2019 at 09:23 AM

DM

Kim , I love this so much! And I remember her well. What a perfectly accurate description! I believe that even if someone had never met her reading this they would think they had. She was like a movie star upon her arrivals . I always admired her and Also envied what an interesting life she must have at her home in Wellesley. And I must say that I was most impressed by the amazing daughter she raised in your mom. Linda quirk is the ultimate Gem. And that speaks volumes for who Your Nan was . I'm sorry for yours and your family's loss , but what an amazing gift she was to your family . She will always be with all of you. My love to all of you ❤️ Delene

Delene mulready - December 27, 2019 at 10:18 PM