



## Marion F. Merritt

June 15, 1922 - November 9, 2008

Marion Frances Loftus Merritt, 86, of Naples FL and Old Lyme CT, beloved wife and best friend of George H. Merritt, passed away on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at home surrounded by her loving family. Marion was born in Pittsfield MA on June 15, 1922, daughter of Gertrude Gauthier Loftus and Martin Henry Loftus. She graduated from St. Joseph High School as class valedictorian, and from Berkshire Business College. She worked in Catholic Charities as secretary for The Holy Family League from 1942-1945. Marion married George Harrison Merritt at Gulfport Air Force Base in Mississippi on July 13, 1945. Together they raised ten children, making their home at 19 LeMay Street in West Hartford CT for 33 years. Marion was a charter member of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford. She was active as a real estate broker with Stafford Associates for ten years. In 1979 she began writing a weekly column for the West Hartford News entitled, "Potpourri." The popular column ran for 18 years and engendered four books. She was also active as an inspirational and entertaining speaker. In 1968 Marion and George purchased a beach home at Old Lyme Shores CT where she served as Property Agent for several years. The beloved cottage became a magnet, drawing her many children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for happy gatherings. Upon the retirement of her husband in 1992, Marion and George became legal residents of Naples FL, dividing their time between Florida and Connecticut. Besides her husband, George, Marion is survived by nine children: Kathy Amenta, Connie Merritt and her fiancé Greg Fitzgerald, Judy Rowean and her

husband Paul, Jean Linderman and her husband John, Polly Maglio and her husband Gary, Larry Merritt and his partner Michael McLaughlin, George Chip Merritt Jr. and his wife Luanne, Martin Merritt and his wife Patti Ann, and Matthew Merritt and his wife Jennifer. Marion also leaves 17 cherished grandchildren: Kimberly Elgart, Sara Beth Nivison, Rebecca Torres, William Dempsey, Amy Beth Dumais, Bryant Rowean, Brandon Rowean, Katelyn Rowean, Jessica Merritt, Daniel Maglio, Gina Maglio, Marsela Termine, Leah Merritt, Andrew Merritt, Peter Merritt, Caroline Merritt, and Christopher Merritt. Marion is also survived by ten great grandchildren: Tristan Elgart, Karly Nivison, Owen Nivison, Hailey Torres, Melody Torres, Andrew Dumais, Samantha Dumais, Tyler Dumais, Keegan Rowean, and Rylee Rowean. In addition to her beloved children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, Marion is survived by her dearly loved brother, Richard Loftus and his wife Lois, of Pittsfield MA, and her sister-in-law Eleanor Peltier of Lenox MA, as well as many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, Marion was predeceased by her oldest son, Andrew, in 1984 and her grandson, Paul Rowean Jr., in 1985. Friends and relatives are welcome to call on the family 3-5 and 6 -8 pm on Wednesday at the Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. Funeral services will be Thursday, with the Celebration of her Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am, in St. Peter Claver Church 47 Pleasant St. West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Marion's memory may be made to The Sisters of St. Joseph, Mont Marie 34 Lower Westfield Rd. Suite 1 Holyoke MA, 01040, Habitat for Humanity, or AVOW Hospice 1095 Whippoorwill Lane Naples, FL 34105. "Death is not extinguishing the candle; it is putting out the light because the dawn has come."

# Tribute Wall



“ I loved knowing your Wife and Mom and reading her books.##imported-begin##Salli Greene##imported-end##

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November 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My family extends their sincere sympathy at the loss of this great woman. Her legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. May you find peace in the knowledge that heaven is rejoicing at her arrival.##imported-begin##Cheri Lincoln & Family##imported-end##

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November 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I loved Aunt Marion , and all of the family. I'm so glad our parents were friends. I got to spend a life time with all of you. Aunt Marion will be in my kitchen with her cookbook, and all around here with her other books. I share them all often with my friends. Her insight to life was endless. I am so sorry she is gone. I share your pain and loss. I love you all. Uncle Bud, to you a special hug.##imported-begin##Sandee Fener##imported-end##

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November 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To Connie & your dear family,

Our deepest condolences to you and your family. I know your mother was a wonderful person, you have a beautiful family.##imported-begin##Carlton and Claudia Weiman##imported-end##

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November 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I was sorry to hear of Marion's passing and my prayers are with George and the family. She was a wonderful person and I always enjoyed reading her work.##imported-begin##Chuck Long##imported-end##

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November 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Merritt Family,  
Please accept my heartfelt sympathy and condolences. May your souls be forever touched with the incredible and never-ending love that your mom represented and shared with the world. I will never forget her kindness and generosity toward me and my children.  
With fondness,  
Kathy##imported-begin##Kathleen Conley Barton##imported-end##

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November 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We extend our sincere condolences for your loss. Our prayers are with you##imported-begin##Fitch&Flo Walmer##imported-end##

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November 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I was so shocked to hear of Marion's passing. She was and will always be a wonderful person. I will miss her greatly, but will always hold her in my heart. She will be missed at my beauty salon by all. I will miss our weekly chats and her stories of her wonderful children. God Bless you all.##imported-begin##Daphne Babcock##imported-end##

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November 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God bless your family during this very difficult time. My sincerest condolences.##imported-begin##Tina BushÃ©e##imported-end##*

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November 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *THE MERRITT FAMILY WAS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE MARION. SHE WAS A WOMAN BEFORE HER TIME AND OBVIOUSLY A GREAT AND SUPPORTIVE MOTHER. SHE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL##imported-begin##BILL&KAREN NAPPO##imported-end##*

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November 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Matt, Jennifer & entire Merritt family, Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your Mom...I remember her fondly the few times I met her in the pre-Sandy, pre-Jennifer days... May God continue to bless your family, Brad, Sandy, Curt & Connor##imported-begin##Brad & Sandy Field##imported-end##*

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November 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the entire family. She leaves behind special memories with each and every one of you to enjoy for years to come. Her loving spirit will always be with you. God Bless all of you. Love, Nelly##imported-begin##Nelly Vega##imported-end##*

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November 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Marion for her great wit, strength, beauty, poise, passion for life, devotion to her family and friends, and her kindness and warmth. I am grateful for the times I met and spoke with her, I grieve with her family, and I honor her spirit with happy memories of this amazing woman.##imported-begin##George Chartier##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Just wanted to let you know I was thinking of you. So sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Jennifer##imported-begin##Jennifer Zubarik##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##The Hellers##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of Marion's loss, and express Condolences to the entire Merritt Family. Besides being a wonderful Mother, Wife & Grandmother, her greatest Legacy of a loving & supportive Family is indicative of the character & virtue she modeled throughout her lifetime. She will be fondly remembered. Sincerely,##imported-begin##Mark A. DeMaio##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our hearts go out to you in your time of sorrow. May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and may the love of those around you help you through the days ahead.##imported-begin##Cheryl & Mike Enson##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Gladys and Bob Dunn extend their sympathy to the Merritt Family. We value highly our many pleasant associations with her. Autographed copies of some of her writing are treasured possessions of ours. It was an honor to have her as a devoted Hall parent. Her support when we were representatives to England was greatly appreciated. Her outstanding family was important to her. When she presented us with a copy of "Uphill Both Ways" she wrote "My thanks for having been so special to Andrew. Love, Marion" We're grateful we knew her and will always have fond memories of her.

Bob and Gladys Dunn  
37 Ranger Lane  
West Hartford, CT 06117##imported-begin##Robert and Gladys  
Dunn##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To The Merritt Family, We share in the understanding and sadness of such a loss to your entire family, and what this will mean for all in the years to come. Marion created an amazing legacy; the riches of which will be revealed in the generations. We pray for enduring strength and comfort in the promises of our Lord for the life ahead of each of us where we are fully restored in His presence. Our lives are enriched in the friendship of Paul and Judy, and our next door neighbors Marty and Patti, Andrew and Peter. Thank you Marion for giving them to us. The Simms Family, Steve and Anne, JoAnna, Steven, Mitchell, Kali and Gem##imported-begin##Steve & Anne Simms##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM

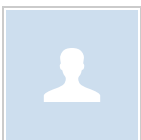


“ Dear Connie and Family,

*I am thinking about you all so much. I'm so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Kara Brobston##imported-end##*

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Who will ever forget the great times we had during our Alaska adventure and all the other wonderful memories of times on Lemay Street. What a blessing and privledge it was to have known Marion. While I know we will all miss talking and laughing with her here its good to know that she will be looking out for us all from her place in heaven. My sincerest sympathies to all for your loss, you are in my prayers. Feeney##imported-begin##Brenda Feeney##imported-end##

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy at this most difficult time.*

*The Hancock Family##imported-begin##Mary Hancock##imported-end##*

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry for your lost. God bless.*

*The Batistas##imported-begin##Ivan##imported-end##*

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Even though Grandma Merritt wasn't my "real" Grandma, she was the Grandma I never had and I will miss her very very much! I love you Grandma....until we meet again! XOXO##imported-begin##Elizabeth Briehof##imported-end##*

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear George and Family,  
Our deepest sympathy. Marion made Naples feel like home to us as new residents of Sonoma Lakes. Her kindness, intelligence, and effervescence will be missed. We hope you find peace in the days and weeks ahead.##imported-begin##Dr. & Mrs. Mickey Gordon##imported-end##*

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November 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *The light in heaven shines brighter now. Her love for family is a true inspiration for all that knew her. She will be deeply missed by our family.*##imported-begin##Norm and Cindy Emard##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *While reading about her life, I am struck by the magnitude of Marion's impact upon this earth..the sheer numbers of her offspring and her many accomplishments that span so many fields. To be loved by so many and to live each day with such vigor is the dream we all share and which she clearly accomplished.*##imported-begin##Loretta & Joe Donovan##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *George & Family*  
*There are no words to describe how we feel at the loss of Marion. What a remarkable person, she accomplished so much and was so inspiring. We treasure our memories of lunches at The Vineyards, the catching up on family events, the twinkle in her eye when she would tell George - "you'd better eat a good lunch - I'm not cooking tonight." We are so privileged to have known her and will never forget how warmly she greeted us. How an every-now-and-then e-mail would brighten my day at the office. How much our friendship meant. We will miss her tremendously.*  
*Sincerely* -##imported-begin##Sandy & Fritz Schellhase##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Merritt Family,  
Ray and I just received the sad news.  
We will always remember Marion with that beautiful smiling face  
and wonderful hug that she greeted us with upon our every visit to  
OLS. Whether she had a moment to share or an hour, she always  
made us feel so welcome. To us, she was "The" OLS Mom!  
We will miss seeing her but will be forever grateful that we had the  
pleasure of knowing such a dynamic person.  
We know her star will shine brightly within all of you and everyone  
that she touched forever.

With Much Love,  
Cathy & Ray Paulding##imported-begin##Cathy  
Paulding##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We are saddened by your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with  
all of the family during these difficult days.##imported-begin##Jan  
and Bob Rubino##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Connie our deepest condolences to you and your family. I never had  
the opportunity to meet your mother but knowing you and your sister  
I can be certain she was an amazing woman##imported-  
begin##Jason and Dawn Gorack##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Connie,  
*I've known you for many years and I know how special and dear your mother was to you and your entire family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*  
Sincerely  
Kristin##imported-begin##Kristin Taylor##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Merritt family.##imported-begin##Jim and Barbara Morrissey##imported-end##

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Connie and family -

*There is a point where feelings go beyond words....*

*I feel so fortunate that I had the privilege of meeting your mom and knowing her through you. She was truly a very special lady and I extend my deepest condolences to you all.##imported-begin##Diane Scholnick##imported-end##*

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To Connie and all of her brothers and sisters and Mr. Merritt,

*Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I will never forget how your Mom made me feel so at home when I had the chance to visit the family cottage. What a wonderful remembrance I have of her surrounded by her children and her loving husband.##imported-begin##Donna McCarty##imported-end##*

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November 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM