



## Jean E Thomas

March 11, 2020

Jean E. Thomas (nee Erskine) died on March 11, 2020 at Medford Leas at the age of 88 surrounded by her family. Born on November 5, 1931, Jean was the only child of Alex and Jessie Erskine. Jean and her husband Herb grew up in Kearny, NJ before moving to Belleville and then to Nutley. In retirement they moved to Mount Laurel, then to Lumberton Leas and then Medford Leas.

Jean and Herb were in different classes, but both graduated from Kearny High School. Their paths continued to cross while working at the Fidelity Union Trust Company in Newark. Early in 1956 they were engaged, and on October 13th they were married at Second Presbyterian Church in Newark.

After moving to Nutley, Jean found great pleasure as an active member of Grace Church. Later in life, Jean decided to pursue a degree from Essex County College, allowing her to enter the workforce at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic as a Physical Therapy Assistant. She was among the first in the state to receive a PTA license. There, Jean met life-long friends who lovingly maintained their relationships with her, long after she retired. While working at St. Mary's, Jean pursued and was awarded a BA degree from Caldwell University.

Jean and Herb moved to Mount Laurel to be closer to their daughter Liz and granddaughter Kristen. They were loyal fans, attending all of Kristen's sporting events throughout grammar, middle and high school. They even attended an occasional dance recital.

As an active member of Trinity Church in Moorestown, Jean served as a member of the flower guild and as a Stephen Minister. She was also a member of the Mount Laurel Garden Club, where she was so grateful to have had an opportunity to meet a group of welcoming women, many of whom became her closest friends.

Jean loved to paint, knit and read and write poetry. She enjoyed listening to music and opera. She was a great note writer and was very happy working in the garden.

Some of Jean's favorite times were spent on the beach in Avalon and with neighbors on First Avenue who became adopted family members.

Jean is survived by her husband Herbert Thomas, daughter Liz Thomas, son-in-law Jim Kehoe and granddaughter Kristen Van Iderstine.

A requiem will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Moorestown at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Book of Remembrance, c/o Trinity Episcopal Church, 207 W. Main St. Moorestown, NJ 08057.

# Comments

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“ I am writing on behalf of all of Jean’s family in Scotland. All of us have been saddened greatly by her passing. We have lovely memories of being with Jean and Herb during the visits they made to our country and we recall with pleasure the dinner they hosted in Clydebank for Jean’s family. Margaret and I, our daughters Julie and Gail, together with Jeanette and Archie, Janice and Archie Junior, Lesley and David, all want to extend our sympathy to Herb, Liz, Jim, and Kristen. Margaret and I had wonderful travels in both the US and Scotland with Jean and Herb. They were the best of company, who in the US combined kindness and thoughtfulness with insights and knowledge which added so much to our enjoyment. We saw so much and visited so many special places, all in the company of two lovely people. In Scotland we enjoyed their obvious pleasure as we moved from the islands of the west to the fishing villages of the east and to the mountains and hills in the far north of the country. Amazingly, in all of this travelling I can recall only one mishap – a missed ferry from the Isle of Arran. Even that had a happy ending, however – an extra night on the Island. Thank you, my lovely cousin Jean. I will miss a very special lady. Jim Hutton

**Jim Hutton** - April 15, 2020 at 07:04 AM

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“ herb you and jean have always been dear friends to us, i will always remember sweet voice as she was called by sandy

**arlene weinstein** - March 19, 2020 at 11:13 AM

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“ We are so sorry for the loss of Jean. She was a beautiful soul inside and out! I remember her beautiful glowing smile always. Such a classy lady! She and Herb brought so much joy to my Mom and Dad (Jack and Lois Davidson) along with all of their life long friends they met at First Presbyterian in Newark many years ago..

All of us should be as lucky to have such true life long friends as Jean and Herb Thomas!

They raised a beautiful daughter equally as charming and beautiful as Jean. God Bless you all! May God hold you in the palm of his hand always.

With love,

Jean Davidson Clayton  
25 Newton Road  
Amesbury, MA 01913  
978 388 8733  
978 337 9409 cell

**Jean Clayton** - March 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM

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“ Herb, My prayers are with you and your family. Jean was a lovely lady, a friend to several generations of our family, Judy Moreland Granger

**Judith M Granger** - March 16, 2020 at 05:30 PM

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“ Thankful for the memories with Jean, sharing pictures and adventures from around the world. Jean was always so interested in others and embraced life with such grace. Loved her and grateful for the memories of my time with her. Special love to Herb, Liz and Kristen.  
Carol and Grant

**Carol Beske** - March 16, 2020 at 03:22 PM