



Martha F. Kirkpatrick Bray

March 2, 2021

Martha F. Kirkpatrick Bray, 88, passed away on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Manor Care Health Services, where she was receiving care after surgery. She was born in Houston, TX to Dr. Louis P. and Winnie Davis (Sykes) Kirkpatrick. She was married 43 years to her husband, Ralph “Bud” V. Bray Jr. who died in 1996.

Her early years were spent in Houston. She graduated from high school in Tsingtao China, where her father was stationed and served as a Captain in the Navy and surgeon for the first MASH Unit during the Korean Conflict.

Martha graduated with a Baccalaureate in English Literature from Randolph Macon College in Lynchburg VA, and met her future husband, Bud, who graduated from Washington and Lee in Lexington VA.

They were married in 1953, moved to Florida where Bud served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. After his service, Bud accepted a job in the Advertising Department of Armstrong World Industries and they moved to Lancaster.

Martha was very active in the Lancaster community, volunteering for and supporting many organizations. She was a founding member of the Community Gallery (Lancaster Museum of Art) where she was a docent and

in charge of the gallery store. Involved in early recycling efforts, she was the director of Lancaster Environmental Action Federation (LEAF). She served as the president of the Junior League in 1972. She volunteered at the Lancaster Public Library for many years and was a board member of PA College of Art and Design. Martha was an early and lifelong member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church and served on the altar guild committee.

Martha and Bud enjoyed extensive traveling, including trips to Kenya, China, Greece, Europe, Great Britain, The Cayman Islands, where Bud enjoyed scuba diving, and they visited many US National Parks. They spent the winters in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. After Bud passed away, Martha continued her travels with friends to Russia, the Galapagos Islands, South America and South Africa. She enjoyed chronicling her many trips.

Martha loved playing golf, tennis and bridge. She enjoyed reading, art, music, theater, and dogs! She raised a few litters of both cats and dogs over the years and the family home was enlivened with a myriad of pets.

Martha is survived by a son, R.V. (Chip) Bray III, married to Edna, of Elizabethtown; a daughter, Gaylen Bray, married to Tom Wanamaker, of Lancaster. Three grandchildren also survive her, Kirk Bray, married to Bridget, of Downingtown; Alison Bray, of Lancaster and Wyatt Bray Dranchek, married to Helena, of Mountville. She has one great-grandchild, Kieran Bray, of Downingtown; a sister, Mary Lynn Jacobson, of Columbus, Ohio; seven nieces and nephews, and nine great-nieces and nephews also survive her.

Martha was full of laughter, love and had a “joie de vivre” which was contagious to all who met her! She will be deeply missed by her family and many friends who were so dear to her.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life Gathering later this year.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lancaster Public Library, the Lancaster Museum of Art, and the Humane League of Lancaster County.

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha F. Kirkpatrick Bray*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Our Aunt Martha had such a wonderful, distinct laugh. It was great fun being around her when she was being amused. There always seemed to be plenty to laugh about when visiting.*

Andy Jacobson

Andrew R Jacobson - May 09, 2021 at 08:53 PM



“ *Gaylen, So sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. My mom let me know today. I always loved her. She was so sweet and friendly with her southern accent. I see that she grew up in Houston, which is where I live now. So many memories come to mind when we all lived in Landis Farms. Then you all moved.... additional memories of great times in your beautiful new home. Your mom even hosted a bridal shower for me. Many thoughts and prayers for your family during this time. Love, Terri Sirman.*

Terri Sirman - March 04, 2021 at 08:51 PM



Thanks so much Terri! We did have so much fun growing up in Landis Farms together! Both our Moms were the best! Loved how your Mom said, "Oh honey". Thanks again for your message, She will be deeply missed

gaylen bray - March 05, 2021 at 12:31 PM

PF

“ So sorry to hear of Marthas' passing. She was a wonderful person, I'm sure she touched too many lives to be counted. She will be missed.

Lloyd and Paula Funk

Paula Funk - March 04, 2021 at 10:36 AM

GB

Thank you Paula!❤️

gaylen bray - March 04, 2021 at 11:05 AM

DW

“ *Chip and family, I was sorry to hear of your mother's passing and I hope that your current sorrow will soon be replaced with wonderful memories of her. With deepest sympathy. Dale Weaver CVHS Class of '73*

Dale Weaver - March 04, 2021 at 07:13 AM

CW

“ *Mr & Mrs Bray were dear friends of my parents. And by proximity, I experienced the Bray's collective radiance. So beautiful, profoundly creative, such fun. I am sorry they are gone from this world; my love to their loved ones. I cherish my memories of the Brays — a special one is of the stuffed bear they gifted my first-born son (now 32) — a bear we always called Bray Bear. ~ Cynthia Walker*

Cynthia Walker - March 03, 2021 at 08:01 PM

GB

Dear Cynthia! Thank you for the lovely tribute. My parents loved yours and shared so many great times together. I am grateful that they continued to enjoy taking my Mom to dinner more recently and your adorable Mom called me often to check in. I really appreciate and love talking to her❤️ Thank you!

gaylen bray - March 04, 2021 at 11:10 AM