

ALICE S. MARTIN



Alice Suzanne "Suzy" Karcis Martin passed away on July 8, 2023. A lifelong Pittsburgher, she was born on October 18, 1937, to Frances Taylor Karcis and John Karcis. She was the older sister to Joan "Tina" Taylor Karcis Jones.

When Suzy was 10, her parents bought a farm in Hampton Township, where the extended family would come to settle. She raised her daughter there and lived out

her life at the farm.

A 1955 graduate of Hampton High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from West Virginia University. Suzy danced professionally and performed in touring musical theater productions while at WVU.

Suzy taught physical education and health for 37 years in the Fox Chapel Area School District. She staged massive Gym Shows, each with a storyline written by her mother, and choreographed dance routines for her classes, involving hundreds of students. She also was Head Coach for Girls' Basketball, Gymnastics, Swimming, Diving, and Synchronized Swimming. She produced the first regional Girls' High School Basketball Tournament, which showcased the competitive talents of female athletes in a pre-Title IX era. During that time, she ran her own dancing school, taught dance through adult education programs, and directed the Dance Drill Team at Hampton High School.

After retiring in 2000, Suzy enjoyed looking after the farm where she grew up. She finally got her dream dog, a Golden Retriever named Bailey, who she trained to be a certified therapy dog. Suzy and Bailey travelled to hospitals and nursing homes, bringing furry delight to the patients.

Suzy's daughter, Angel, loved horses from an early age. Years of riding lessons turned into horse ownership, and Suzy was the most devoted supporter of Angel's competitive endeavors up to the time of Suzy's passing.

Suzy is preceded in death by her parents and aunts Marjorie Alice (Donald) Fletcher and Sue Taylor Weekly. She is survived by her daughter, Angel Martin-Dias, son-in-law, Wesley Dias, and sister, Joan "Tina" Taylor Karcis Jones.

Friends will be received at **KING'S FUNERAL HOME**, 2841 Woodland Circle, Allison Park, on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, from 2:00 – 6:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, Suzy family encourages donations to Animal Friends or your favorite animal charity.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared with Herbert's family at www.kingfuneralhome.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb