

JEAN WAECHTER DONALDSON



Jean Waechter Donaldson, 103, of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, passed away peacefully with her four children at her side on July 21, 2023. She was fortunate to have visited with each of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren the day before her passing during a planned family reunion in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Though it was well known that her time was short, no better goodbye could have

been planned. An impromptu memorial service was held on the beach the following morning with her entire family in attendance and remembrances were spoken.

Jean was born in 1919 in Cleveland, Ohio, where she and her father moved in with her paternal Waechter grandparents when her mother died at 8 years of age. For most of her childhood, she lived in Towson, Maryland. Jean graduated salutatorian of her class at Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, Maryland. Upon graduation during the Great Depression, she went to work for her father for no wages, rather than attend college, her lifetime goal. In 1940, Jean and two friends moved to Washington, D.C. She worked for Royal Typewriter, Army War College, and War Production Board. Immediately after WWII, she married William F. Donaldson, Jr. (1921-2006) and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Jean was her husband's steadfast advocate and was integral to his international professional success. He received a chair position from UPMC Children's Hospital that he renamed the William F. and Jean Donaldson Endowed Chair in Pediatric Orthopedics.

The couple raised their active family in Fox Chapel. She played tennis at the Fox Chapel Racquet Club and was a member of Longue Vue Country Club. Jean was an avid skier and tennis player up until her 80's, plus played golf and bowled into her 90's. She took her family on many coast-to-coast camping trips and held beach reunions in Stone Harbor, Virginia Beach, Jamaica, Hawaii, Mexico and most recently Asbury Park, New Jersey. Jean missed skiing the most, and the yearly skiing trips to Snowmass, Colorado, with her entire family were some of her favorite family gatherings.

Jean had a thirst for learning and regularly audited classes at the University of Pittsburgh and traveled extensively. She explored almost every continent and was a well-informed adventurer who saw the wonder in all.

She was an avid Pitt and Steeler fan and managed to find a bar in New Jersey and most places she traveled where their games were broadcasted.

Jean's endless love for family, her graciousness, and her boundless energy will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her four children Susan D. Boyd (Jay Boyd); Anne D. Hong (Brad Hong); William F. Donaldson, III M.D. (Kathleen A. Hartford D.C.); and Nancy D. Casey (Steve Spear). She was blessed with 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren who loved spending time with her in all of her many activities. Her sister Marcia Faivre of France and brother Noel Waechter of Colorado also survive her.

In remembrance of Jean's life, the family asks that charitable donations be made to Gwendolyn Strong Foundation <https://nevergiveup.org> to honor Jack Ryan Bonelli, her first great-grandchild who passed as an infant from SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) or to The Medical Student Scholarship Fund at the University of Pittsburgh, Division of Philanthropic and Alumni Engagement, 128 North Craig Street, 107 Park Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Earmark donations "In Memory of Jean W. Donaldson".

A memorial service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be scheduled later in the year.

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