

CHONG HAMMOND



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Chong Hammond, 73, of Gibsonia. She died peacefully in her home on August 5, 2023, with her husband of 49 years by her side, after waging a courageous battle with cancer.

Chong was born in Daejeon, South Korea, on January 8th, 1950, and was the eldest of five siblings. It was during what would become a pivotal visit to the United States in 1974 that she met her husband, Frank, on a blind date arranged by their mutual friends. This initial connection sparked a whirlwind romance which culminated in their elopement just six weeks later. Together, they enjoyed a playful, loving, and devoted partnership that defied early skeptics to endure a lifetime.

They resided in several different cities and states throughout the Mid-Atlantic before arriving in Pittsburgh, which Chong and her husband have called home since 1988. She took immense joy in raising their two daughters, Cynthia and Susan - she saw to all of their school needs and shuttled them to-and-from a daunting array of activities and extracurriculars. Some years later, she delighted at the arrivals of her two granddaughters, Isla and Serena, finding any small excuse to spoil them with treats, playtime, and cuddles as all the best grandmas do.

She kept a full and active lifestyle until the very end of her illness, rarely sitting still for too long in one place. Chong's morning routine included taking brisk walks around her neighborhood or North Park Lake, where she often logged an impressive 5-10 miles a day. She was also an avid reader who made regular use of her local library to snap up the latest bold-name thrillers and romance novels in equal measure. She was renowned for her deal-finding prowess, locating every available bargain and rarely ever paying full price. Rather infamously, she was known to step out for "just a couple of things" only to return some hours later having accomplished the errands of at least two people.

Chong was the uncontested CEO of her household, which she managed with dedication and efficiency, as well as the heart and soul of the family, in which her nurturing and generous nature were unrivaled. She focused her seemingly bottomless energies on serving those she loved. Only rarely could she be imposed upon to engage in even minor self-indulgences, to the great frustrations of her family who adored her.

Chong's mischievous nature, loyal friendship, sharp mind, and generosity will forever be etched into the hearts of all who knew her. Her presence will be dearly missed, but her notable strength, love, and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

She is survived by her loving husband, Frank Hammond; her daughters, Cynthia Causey (Ryan) and Susan Dettmar (Christopher); and her granddaughters, Isla and Serena Dettmar, of Brooklyn, NY; and a wide circle of friends who came to know and love her.

A gathering of friends and family will be held at **SCHELLHAAS & SONS F.H. & CREMATION SERVICES** in Franklin Park (1600 Stone Mansion Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143), on Friday, August 11th, 2023 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and participate in the remembrance and celebration of her life. Remarks will begin at 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to UPMC Hillman Cancer Center online at <https://hillman.upmc.com>. Please offer condolences at www.schellhaasfh.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb