

BARBARA ROTHERAM MEREDITH



Barbara Rotheram Meredith, a resident of Hillsboro Beach, Florida, and formerly of McKeesport and Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, passed peacefully at the home of her devoted daughter, Jeannette Meredith, on the 22nd day of August 2023. Her children were at her side. She was 93 years old.

Barbara was born in McKeesport on October 5, 1929, the daughter of Dr. Edward Brook Rotheram and Cora Elisabeth Nill Rotheram. She grew up on Coursin Street in McKeesport, across the street from her grandparents, and graduated from McKeesport High School in 1947.

Barbara was an extraordinary and inspirational woman. Ahead of her time, Barbara pursued her love of science first at Knox College (where she was a competitive horseback rider - "English" style), then as a zoology major at Mount Holyoke College (graduating in 1951), and later as a graduate assistant (and teacher) in Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and as a medical technologist at the Singer Laboratory at Allegheny General Hospital.

After her marriage to her beloved husband, John Robert Meredith in 1955, she devoted herself to raising her three children: Coralyn Eva Meredith Benhart, Jeannette Joan Meredith (Dodd), and John Rotheram Meredith. Ever the scientist and teacher, she ensured her children (and later her grandchildren) had a grounding in science, as well as an appreciation of the natural world, art, and history. She especially emphasized the importance of observation and paying attention to details.

Barbara also dedicated herself to working tirelessly with her husband, John in the coin and stamp business (within Gimbels/Kaufmann's department stores, and now Treasure Hunt) which they founded in 1963. After John's passing in 1995, Barbara continued to support the business for several years, working with her son, John, and daughter Jeannette.

In Barbara's spare time, she served as President of: the Twentieth Century Club of McKeesport, the McKeesport College Club, and the Mount Holyoke Club of Pittsburgh. Barbara was a dedicated Girl Scout, starting as a Scout during World War II and then serving as a troop leader for Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors, a neighborhood chairwoman, and finally as a member of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scout Council of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Barbara was a member of Deep Creek Yacht Club at Turkey Neck since 1983, serving as "Commodorable" when her husband, John, was Commodore. She was also an avid sailor, dedicating many years to sailing with her son John. Together they were fleet champions several years in a row. She also crewed for her oldest granddaughter. In addition, Barbara served as both patrol chairwoman and club historian. Some of Barbara's happiest family times were at her home in Deep Creek, where she shared years of fun and laughter with her children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren.

She relished her time in Hillsboro Beach, Florida, where family and friends were always around, and where her lessons on marine life and astronomy were loved by all. In her later years, she enjoyed her Hillsboro Beach home even more when her daughter Coralyn came to live with her for several months during the year, and evenings were full of fun conversation and playing games - bridge, poker, hearts, chase the aces, cribbage, blackjack, gin, Fan-Tan, dominoes, chess, Chinese Checkers and even Sleeping Queens - with her wonderful sister Joan MacDonald (DeDe), brother Ed, three children, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and an amazing group of friends.

Barbara loved music and was an avid pianist and practiced every day for at least an hour to perfect her renditions of the Beethoven Pathetique Sonata and Nola (a favorite she first studied with her father "Doc") as well the 12th Street Rag and Flight of the Bumblebee. She loved playing duets with her sister, DeDe, and playing her pieces for and with her grandchildren.

She was quite the photographer, having her own dark room for developing family photos featured in Christmas cards for her as well as her sister and brother for years, and embracing digital photography and editing in her later years.

Barbara had a great fondness for travel to faraway and exotic places. She and John celebrated her 40th anniversary in Alaska with their forever honeymoon friends, Gloria and Alvin Bernstein. Barbara also traveled the world with her dearly loved sister Joan MacDonald (and late husband Jack) and close friend Nancy Walk. Her brother Edward and wife Joan sometimes traveled with them. Her daughters and some lucky grandchildren joined her on a trip to Tanzania and Egypt, and she traveled with her three oldest grandchildren to Greece, along with her sister DeDe and two of her grandchildren. She visited more than 70 countries, including Egypt, South Africa, Botswana, China, India, Morocco, Turkey, Jordan, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, Norway, Finland, Italy, Spain, and Portugal - Barbara could never name a favorite trip. A believer in "seeing America first", she took her children and then accompanied her daughters and families to some of the great US National Parks. One of her last trips was back to Alaska with her three children, her loving daughter-in-law Lisa, and her four youngest grandchildren.

Barbara is survived by her three children, Coralyn, Jeannette, and John (Lisa); eight grandchildren, Meredith Rebekah Dodd Hillyer (Chris Drury), Ashley Brook Dodd Ireland (Brett), Carrie Jeannette Dodd Newton (Tom), Robert Kenneth Benhart, Bryan Edward Benhart, John Brook Benhart, Ella Grace Meredith, and Eva Brook Meredith; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Joan Rotheram MacDonald (late husband, Jack); and brother Dr. Edward Brook Rotheram, Jr. (Joan); and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Robert Meredith.

Funeral arrangements by **BEINHAUERS**. Friends and Family are welcome at 2828 Washington Rd., McMurray, 724-941-3211, Thursday, 5-8 PM and Friday, 1-3 PM and 5-8 PM, where a Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, 10 AM. Entombment to follow at Mt. Vernon Cemetery, McKeesport.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Deep Creek Sailing School (204 Yacht Club Road, Swanton, MD 21561, Attn: President), the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania (<https://www.gswpa.org/en/support-us/donate-locally.html>), or the Mount Vernon Community Presbyterian Church (2200 Greenock Buena Vista Road, McKeesport, PA, United States, Pennsylvania), where she was a member at the time of her passing.

The family sincerely appreciates the caring support of Vitas Hospice, especially Amanda Dancer, and nurse and family friends Mary Scobel and Cathy McLaughlin, who helped make Barbara so comfortable in her last days.

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