

THELMA WOODENE MERRIMAN

"WOODY"



Age 97, of Chevy Chase, MD, formerly of Elizabeth Township, passed away Saturday, August 19, 2023. She was born February 21, 1926 in Armstrong County, and was the wife of the late Klein Merriman who passed away in 1990, and the late Carl Benson, who passed away in 2021. Woody was a 1946 graduate of Penn State University, where she was the first full-time female editor of the "Daily Collegian". Shortly

after graduation, Woody was hired by the former McKeesport Daily News as a general assignment reporter. By 1977, Ms. Merriman found her way to the Post-Gazette as a reporter and editor, eventually serving as food and restaurant critic. She introduced Pittsburghers to fancy restaurants and sometimes offered a peek into the lives of famous people. She wrote two books about microwave cooking and far from being aghast at promoting what is considered by most as an inferior cooking appliance, recipes from the cookbooks were shared by newspapers across the country. After retirement, Ms. Merriman spent winters in Hawaii with her son, Peter, a chef and restaurateur. Ms. Merriman is survived by children Klein Merriman Jr., of Delray Beach, FL, Judy Regan, of Chevy Chase, MD, John Merriman of Aurora, IL, and Peter Merriman of Maui, Hawaii; brother Leonard Bell, of Ashburn, VA; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral Service will be held Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 2:15 pm. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in McKeesport, where Ms. Merriman was a long-term congregant. Inurnment will follow at Mount Vernon Cemetery, Elizabeth Township. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Hawaii Community Foundation or Merriman's Kapalua Displaced Families. Arrangements are by **GILBERT FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC.** 6028 Smithfield Street, Boston, Elizabeth Township. (412)751-5000 Drew J. Gilbert, Director. Condolences may be made at gilbertfuneralhomeandcrematory.com

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