

ZORA (KUKIC) CAMP



Age 92, passed away peacefully on July 1st, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Zora is survived by her son, Walter Toma Camp (Teresa Kraus) of Virginia Beach, Virginia; nine nieces and nephews, extended family and lifelong friends. She was predeceased by her daughter, Anna Lisa Camp; husband, Walter Camp, Jr.; sister, Mildred Lukic; brothers, Duke, Mike, and Tom Kukic; parents, Toma and Milica (Ivosevic)

Kukic; and niece, Sandra (Kukic) Slifko.

Zora (meaning "dawn" in Serbian) was born as the morning sun rose on Flag Day, June 14, 1932, at her parents' home in East McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She loved school, graduating in 1950 from Westinghouse Memorial High School in Wilmerding, PA, with honors in science, history, and other subjects, and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." Attending the University of Pittsburgh on academic scholarships, Zora graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1954 with dual majors. She earned a Masters of Retailing at Pitt in 1955, again with local and national academic honors.

Zora's desire to travel (her "itchy feet") led to jobs in Philadelphia; Washington, DC; San Francisco; and the Territory of Hawaii. She returned to DC in 1961 to work for Congressional Minority Leaders Sen. Dirksen and Rep. Halleck's Joint Leadership Conference. Her first day in the office coincided with the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and her support work for them was fast-paced through the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Civil Rights legislation. She never forgot answering the White House's call on November 22, 1963, and scrambling to find and inform leaders of the President's assassination.

Leaving the US Capitol building and her beloved high heels behind, Zora married, moved to Silver Spring, MD, and became a mother. Focusing on family and community organizations, she instilled a priority on education, sound principles, a strong work ethic, and her love of fun in all her endeavors. She loved to cook, and each square on 20 years of family calendars was full, punctuated in autumn by rushes back from church for every Steelers and Redskins kickoff! She was forever proud to be from Pittsburgh.

Zora returned to the workforce as the principal's secretary at schools in Montgomery County, MD, and began mourning the loss of her daughter in 1987. After retiring in 1994 she traveled, cherishing time with her son and her extended family, and enrolling in Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) programs that took her throughout America. Widowed in 2008, she began anew, enrolling in 3 college courses per semester, welcoming her daughter-in-law into the family, and becoming the poster child for all that a vibrant, senior community can provide. At age 77 Zora was given her own key to the fitness center so she could start her busy days there without delay at 5:00 am, an hour before the staff arrived.

Zora's Alzheimer's diagnosis brought her to Virginia Beach near her son and daughter-in-law, and together they embarked on a 10-year mission of doing as much as they could for as long as she could. They attended every theatre in the region, went fishing, regularly enjoyed live music from bluegrass to the Symphony, visited parks and museums, and of course kept watching the Steelers. Zora's curiosity, desire for adventure, and willingness to try anything never waned. Indoor skydiving for her 83rd birthday fulfilled a lifetime wish to fly. She was active until her final year, always trying to raise the spirits of all those around her. Zora departed naturally, on her own terms, while holding her loving son's hand.

Friends may call at **HINES-RINALDI FUNERAL HOME**, 11800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, from 2 - 4:00 pm and 6 - 8:00 pm. A Funeral Service will be held there on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 10:30 am, followed by a 12:00 noon interment at George Washington Cemetery, 9500 Riggs Rd., in Adelphi, MD.

In lieu of flowers, Zora's vision can be extended by donating in her memory to a local Girl Scout troop, Council, or the national organization www.girlscouts.org. Such gifts will help put more young girls on the road to personal and professional success early, in a fun, supportive way ... just as Girl Scouting did for Zora over 75 years ago.

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