



Ms. Marie Ricks-Miles

November 22, 1931 - July 28, 2018

Celebrating The Life Of Marie Ricks-Miles:

Marie Winston Ricks was born on November 22, 1931 to the union of Edward Thomas and Mary Lucy Smith Ricks in Franklin, VA. She was the youngest of her 4 other siblings: Anne, Edward Thomas Jr., Vashti and Cecil. She attended and graduated from the South Hampton County School System in Franklin, VA.

During her high school years and after, she was guided by an outstanding vocal music instructor and director, and she became the leading soprano in a female trio. The trio traveled and performed in schools, auditoriums and churches around Virginia and other surrounding states.

In the early 50s, Marie decided to relocate to NYC and joined her older sister, Anne Walden and her family in Manhattan. She also joined her sister in working as a telephone operator at AT&T downtown. She re-connected with her high school sweetheart, Otha Miles, who had also relocated to New York. Otha wanted to serve his country, so he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force. In 1960, Marie and Otha married in California, as Otha was then stationed at Travis AFB in Solano County, CA. During the Vietnam War years, Otha's service enabled Marie to travel and reside at the NATO Aviano Air Base in Northeastern Italy. While Otha was active in his military duties, Marie began a position teaching Bible Study to children in and around Aviano. Marie and

Otha enjoyed traveling throughout Italy and Europe during their downtime. They were further blessed, along with a select few other service members, to have a private audience with Pope Paul VI.

After Vietnam, they were stationed at McGuire AFB and lived on the adjacent Fort Dix Army Base in New Jersey. For many years thereafter, Marie and Otha welcomed and entertained many family and friends at their home on Fort Dix. While at Fort Dix, Marie began work for the State of New Jersey at the New Lisbon Developmental Center, a facility for young men with mental and physical challenges. She enjoyed a long career as a Cottage Training Supervisor there, and developed lifelong friendships with many of the staff, especially best friends, Cleo Mitchell and Jack Lewis.

After leaving Fort Dix, Marie and Otha moved to the suburban town of Willingboro, NJ; but by the end of the 1970s, they had divorced. In the early 1980s, Marie moved to her permanent home in Browns Mills, NJ, located just outside of the two military bases. Marie strongly loved and cared for all her nieces and nephews; but she exhibited an especial concern for her grandnieces, Monica and Sherry Etcherson (Thelma's daughters) - - who she invited to spend many summers with her during all their growing years, which they treasured.

Marie affiliated with and joined Browns Mills United Methodist Church soon after moving. She became an enthusiastic member of their unit of United Methodist Women; and regularly attended the Bible Study classes held at the church. She became involved with the town's active senior citizen's center, and volunteered for many years as an exercise teacher there. She was cited in the local paper for her 5 years of dedicated service to her community.

During these years, she continued to welcome and host family and friends to her ranch style, lake surrounded home. She also enjoyed traveling to New

York and spending quality time with her older sister Anne, whom she loved with all her heart. Marie was an excellent card player, who also enjoyed playing Scrabble and doing crossword puzzles. They would go shopping and see Broadway shows together. They were delighted to see Lena Horne perform in her one woman show in the 1980s.

Marie's health began to fail in these last few years. It was determined by a few neuro-specialists in the summer of 2016 that a brain tumor, which had been initially operated on in the early 90s, had redeveloped and would cause her body to gradually break down. This message was personally, professionally and medically relayed to nieces, Thelma Etcherson and Monica Callahan, with Marie present in a consultation in Philadelphia. Last year, when it became evident that Marie could no longer live safely in her home alone, Marie asked her nieces Monica and Thelma to relocate her to Thelma's home in Detroit. Monica attended to all the travel and housing arrangements to make this happen late last September.

Marie's final days were spent at Botsford Commons Nursing Facility in Farmington Hills, MI. She endeared herself to the staff members; who along with Heart To Heart Hospice Services, made her as comfortable as they could, often praying for and with her. Marie quietly departed this life early Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Friday, Aug. **10**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Second Grace United Methodist Church
18700 Joy Road
Detroit, MI 48228
(313) 838-6475

Memorial Service

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18700 Joy Road
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(313) 838-6475

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Marie Ricks-Miles*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM

RT

“ *WHEREAS, our Eternal God, Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and our Father, has called unto Himself; the dear soul of Marie Ricks-Miles beloved aunt of Thelma Etcherson of Second Grace United Methodist Church.*

WHEREAS, we are bound to the entire family through Christian love and sympathy, we share the family's sorrow as our sorrow, and enfold them in our prayers.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members of Second Grace United Methodist Church, pay our honor and respect to Marie Ricks-Miles in the celebration of her home-going as we commend the family to the care and keeping of the One who promises never to leave them, nor forsake them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pledge to continually be in prayer with the family in this, time of their bereavement.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be given to the family, and a copy shall be placed in the records of the Archives of Second Grace United Methodist Church.

This 10th. day of August in the year of our Lord, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mrs. Beatrice Alghali, Lay Leader

Rev. Dr. Darryl E. Totty, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Darryl E. Totty - August 04, 2018 at 01:57 AM

RV

“ *Genuine love comes from the heart and is spoken in very few words. Rest in peace our beloved aunt.*

*Ricks Family
Franklin, VA*



Ricks Family of VA - August 02, 2018 at 11:52 AM

EF

“ *To the bereaved family of Mrs. Miles , We send our sincere condolences and heartfelt understanding. In the loss of your loved one may the memories that mean the most to you live forever in your hearts. Know that death , pain and morning will soon be gone forever. Thoughts of peace.*

Evans Family - August 01, 2018 at 05:59 AM