



Marie Minnemeyer Houston

September 27, 1923 - January 8, 2008

MARIE KING MINNEMEYER HOUSTON, age 84 of Manassas, Virginia died Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at Prince William Hospital, Manassas..

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 27, 1923 to Henry W. Minnemeyer III and Gladys King Minnemeyer. Marie and her family soon moved to Washington, PA where she attended East Washington High School. In 1947, Marie graduated from Carnegie Tech, now Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh where she studied Drama and Psychology.

After graduating from college, Marie went on to New York City to pursue her acting dreams. In just a short amount of time, she was selected to be the understudy for Barbara Bel Geddes in the lead role of the original Broadway production of "Blue Moon". Marie's acting career took a sharp turn in 1952, however, when she married John D. Houston, Jr. and returned to Pittsburgh to begin raising a family. Marie had three sons, John D. III, Henry and Timothy, before moving to Manassas, Virginia in 1964 with her husband and children.

Marie held on to her love for the theatre and soon became a founder and co-owner of the Hayloft Dinner Theatre in Manassas. As usual, Marie wanted the best and made sure that her theatre was the only "Actor's Equity" playhouse in the area, entertaining talent from Ray Walston to Maureen O'Hara. Her well known Christmas parties also made front page news in the Manassas Journal

Messenger.

Marie enjoyed spending summers all of her life at Chataqua Lake, New York, swimming, sailing and having cocktails on the porch at sunset. Marie tried to convey her style of living to others and founded Evergreen Farm Development with her partners in 1971. This later became Evergreen Country Club, the first upscale 18 hole full service private country club in the area. Marie also very much enjoyed being a member of the Sudley Swim and Tennis Club in Manassas, VA, sticking to mostly sunbathing and entertaining the children.

Marie loved life and was kind and helpful to everyone, rich and poor. She was active in the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and local politics. She loved animals. Marie had one cat as child (Smokey), but that was not enough. During her married life, she had 1 more cat (Helmut), 4 dogs (Alfie, Woofer, Samantha and Tony) and treated them all like little kings, including regular weekend trips to her beach house in Virginia Beach. Marie's love of animals also included horses. Marie took great pride in ownership and exhibition of some of the nation's finest show hunters. Marie will always be remembered at those events for her short skirts and counter-culture Schlitz Beer sun hat.

Marie is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, John D. Houston, Jr. of Manassas, three sons, John Houston III and wife Jane and their children, John D. Houston and Michael Houston of Gainesville, VA, Henry Houston and wife Doreen of Casanova, VA and Tim Houston of Alexandria, VA. Also survived by John D. II, William A., Roberta and Jeannie Houston, all of Pittsburgh and two cousins, Betty King Unger, of Pittsburgh and Marilyn King Jessen of Virginia Beach, VA.

The family will receive friends from 3:00-6:00 P.M. Sunday, January 13, 2008 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas. Interment will be private at Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh, PA at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of flowers, or contributions to City of Manassas Animal Adoption Center, 10039 Dean Drive, Manassas, VA 20110 in memory of Marie Houston.

Condolences may be sent to www.piercefh.com.

Tribute Wall

CR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Marie was a wonderful person and good friend to my mother. I will always remember her and our conversations with much love and affection. I will as my mom will miss her a great deal. Her conversations were always of great context and interest.

CATHY REID - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

JI

“ Mom,
You did a great job and we are very proud of you!
Will remember you always.
Love,
John

John Duff Houston III - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

SF

“ We are sorry for your loss.

Steve and Fran Felber - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

NO

“ Mr. Houston, Henry, John, and Timmy. Please accept Rick's and my sympathy. Mrs. Houston was such a delightful lady! I always felt a special closeness to her and although I didn't see her very much, she was always so gracious and would greet me with her big smile and with a twinkle in her eye. She made everyone she met feel special and loved. The last time that I saw her was in City Tavern, and I told her how much I had always admired her. She was so modest and seemed surprised. I feel blessed to have known her.

Nancy Brown O'Brien - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

GG

“ To the Houston Family,

Guy, Aryal, Amber, Miranda and I wish to extend our condolences to you on the passing of Marie.

Guy and I feel so blessed to have known Marie over the last 17 years while vacationing at Hotel Lenhart. Our children cannot picture summers without Marie pointing out special houses while on boat rides, walking in Midway park, or just sitting on the Lenhart Porch in one of the many rocking chairs. I picture Marie in her blue flowered sun dress, barefoot, holding her favorite drink.

*Marie was a great believer in life after death. She enjoyed driving us to Lily Dale and knew the way by heart. There is no doubt that she is on the other side having fun with old friends!
I believe that she will find someway to join us again this summer whether in spirt or just in our hearts!*

*Love your friends from the Lenhart,
Sue, Guy, Aryal, Amber, Miranda*

Guy & Sue Smith & girls - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

TT

“ To the Huston Family,

God does not put anymore on us then we can handle. May God Bless and take care of the Huston Family. She will be missed her but know this Heaven has given you a very special angle to watch over you and yours.

Twlya M. Tucker - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

HW

“ John,

I'm so sorry for your loss. All the best.

Hank

Hank Wiese - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

KR

“ *John III and the Houston Family, may God's presence comfort you in your grief and may the knowledge that His love has found a new home in heaven for His beloved child, Marie, bring joy to your hearts during this time of sorrow.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Ken Royston*

Ken Royston - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

RE

“ *I had the unique privilege of getting to know the Houston family while helping Marie through some health issues this last year. I will always remember the love and devotion she and John had for each other. The daily afternoon rides together were always the highlight of their day. Her boys were her joy - each time they came to visit she would greet them with smiles of happiness and a twinkle in her beautiful blue eyes. I enjoyed helping her feed the tribe of squirrels that came to see her each day; Marie truly loved all of God's little creatures.*

*I will miss her and always remember what a dear friend she was. My prayer is for peace in your hearts as you remember your wonderful wife and mother.
In loving memory of Marie,
Ruth Elliott*

Ruth Elliott - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM



“ *We have such fond memories of Marie walking visits throughout the neighborhood. Her laughter and kindness will be missed.
Fondly, Meade and Pam Gwinn*

January 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM