



Margaret Stephens Martin

June 28, 1941 - November 18, 2021

Margaret Stephens Martin of Travelers Rest, SC, passed away peacefully Thur. Nov. 18, 2021.

Margaret was born in Valdosta, GA on June 28, 1941 and was raised in Atlanta, GA where she graduated from Brown High School. She then broke ground as being one of the first women to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1959 and was the first woman ever to be admitted to the School of Psychology and to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in psychology. While an undergrad, Margaret was an enthusiastic football and basketball fan and was one of the first two women allowed to join the all-male cheerleading squad.

While at Georgia Tech, Margaret received the Richard P. Moll award for outstanding scholarship in psychology and the Sigma Xi award for the outstanding Master's thesis in science. She went on to earn a PhD in experimental psychology from Emory University in Atlanta. She then received a postdoctoral research fellowship in pharmacology from Harvard Medical School University in Boston in 1970.

Margaret was a psychology instructor and served as head of the Human Services Department at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC from 1970 to 1986 where she won Teacher of Year in 1977. In 1986, Margaret

joined the faculty at Lander University where was a professor of psychology. She also taught courses at Greenville Technical College in Greenville, SC and at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. She retired from teaching college in 2006 but continued teaching fitness classes at the Greenville YMCA until 2017.

Aside from a busy and fulfilling career, Margaret was a loving mother, caring for four children as well as an impressive collection of rare orchids and African violets. She was a lifelong fan of Ga Tech football and basketball and was proud that she led the way for other women to attend. She loved traveling with her family, especially to Central and South America and enjoyed knitting, Zumba, gardening and gathering with her large extended family. Margaret also gave generously to the Ga Tech Alumni Association and to the World Wildlife Fund.

Margaret is survived by her children Lisa Burk and her husband David of Baton Rouge, LA; Jason Martin of Greenville, SC; Stephanie Neal and her husband David of Raleigh, NC and Nicholas Martin of Greenville, SC. She was a proud grandmother of eight grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Vicki McCourt of Encinitas, CA; her brother Richard Stephens and his wife Elaine of Travelers Rest, SC; her sister Andrea Mallory of Lawrenceville, GA; her sister Lee Layton and her husband Bruce of Cape Coral, FL; her brother Perry Stephens, Jr. and his wife Carol of Cape Coral, FL. Margaret is preceded in death by her parents Perry and Willie Mae Stephens of Lawrenceville, GA.

A memorial service will be held Sat. Dec. 4, 2021 at the Howze Mortuary in Travelers Rest, SC at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the World Wildlife Fund at worldwildlife.org.

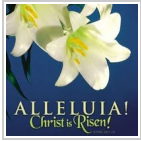
Previous Events

Service

DEC 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *I'll always remember my Aunt Margaret's great laugh and smile. Rest in Peace, Aunt Margaret. Love, Kristin*



Kristin Hock - December 04, 2021 at 12:52 PM

PK

“ *Heartfelt condolences to the family of my beloved cousin Margaret. My mother, Aunt Ruby, always talked about how smart and poised Margaret was.*

I was impressed the last time I saw her as she was teaching Zumba classes and was so fit and young looking!

She will be missed!

Love to all,

Phyllis

Phyllis DeNeve Kostelnik - December 02, 2021 at 03:09 PM

BY

“ Margaret taught Group Exercise Classes at the George I. Theisen YMCA for over 28 years and was such a wonderful person! She will be greatly missed by all of our staff and members who knew her. When she retired from the Y, she told me that she treasured all of the classes she taught and fond memories would keep the Y alive in her mind for many years. What an outstanding life she led!

*Brande Yarborough
Operations Director of Membership & Wellness
George I. Theisen Family YMCA*

Brande Yarborough - December 02, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Margaret Stephens Martin.



December 02, 2021 at 09:03 AM

SN

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Stephanie Neal - December 01, 2021 at 10:11 AM

SR

“ *Steph Vander Veen and Nate Ranke purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Margaret Stephens Martin.*



Steph Vander Veen and Nate Ranke - November 30, 2021 at 09:03 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Margaret Stephens Martin.*



November 30, 2021 at 11:33 AM