



Phyllis Kay Begens

November 23, 1928 - February 24, 2019

Later in life, as a hobby, Phyllis Kay Begens enjoyed reading other people's obituaries. The funnier, the better, she always said. Well, Phyllis read her last obituary on February 24, 2019. She was 90.

Let me tell you about Phyllis.

In 1943, she worked outside in the scorching heat detasseling corn in Geneseo, Illinois when she was 15. Then in 1946, she got an indoor job teaching kids in a one-room schoolhouse.

Her real job however was raising a family, which was her true calling. Phyllis and her late husband, John (married for 59 years), had six kids: Kerry, Ami, "Walt," Brad, "Chops" and Pam. One of the brood was a handful (although that child was probably also her favorite). There were also grandchildren: Markus, B.J., Richard Carl, Ashley, Matt, Whitney, Brad, Eric and Tommy; and even great grandchildren: AJ, Sadie, Charlotte and Mason. She never forgot a birthday.

She famously claimed she once fought an angry black bear while camping in the Adirondacks Mountains and broke four ribs in the melee (in reality she tripped over a tree root while trying to glimpse a lazy bear eating scraps from a garbage can).

No matter where she lived, Phyllis made long-lasting friends: names like Trantina, Rey, Minkiewicz, Dalby and Duffy in her West Hill neighborhood; one of the “Golden Girls” in Pine Lakes and even new friends in Discovery Village.

She had a talent for clever poetry. Not that fancy Haiku stuff but the ones that rhyme. She also played the piano, sometimes doing an impromptu duet with Cousin Gerry (or Liberace as his Hollywood friends call him).

Phyllis would never refuse a Prosecco. Two was her limit (after all, she was from the Midwest). She was also a connoisseur of Cheetos. Not the large puffy kind but only the skinny crunchy kind would do.

She kept her mind sharp by doing crosswords puzzles in ballpoint pen (at least on Mondays). She was a rebel.

Phyllis left a legacy for subsequent residents at Discovery Village. Hint: Abracadabra and think of the Three of Hearts.

Simply put, Phyllis was the best. If you knew her, you already know that.

Join the family to bid farewell to Phyllis when she is interred at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, FL on March 11, 2019, starting at 1:00 pm sharp.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

South Florida National Cemetery

6501 State Rd 7

Lake Worth, FL 33449

(561) 649-6489

Tribute Wall



“ *Phyllis Kay Begens*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Phyllis Kay Begens*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Kay Begens.*



March 07, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ *Judy & John MacDonld purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Phyllis Kay Begens.*



Judy & John MacDonld - March 06, 2019 at 02:09 PM

PR

“ I live at Pine Lakes and spent many an afternoon with Phyllis at the pool. A grand lady with a wonderful sense of humor. My deepest sympathy to her family. I

Patricia Rotthoff

Patricia Rotthoff - February 28, 2019 at 11:10 PM

JB

Thank you for your kind words. My mother and father enjoyed their long stay at Pine Lakes. I visited there many times. She said she spent many a day at the pool or at the Pub having a drink or dinner.

Jeffrey Begens - March 01, 2019 at 06:21 PM

DW

“ We only knew each other for five years. But we came to cherish her as a friend. We had our last “two” glasses of Prosecco on the Thursday before she passed. Heaven has another angel. Condolences to all her great family. Our hearts bear a giant hole at her loss. Love, The Whites

Dick and Brtty White - February 28, 2019 at 08:35 PM

JB

My mom always talked about how helpful you both were to her, cleaning her roof and any other odds and ends. All my siblings are so grateful that you were her neighbor at Pine Lakes. I will always think of you as one of the Golden Girls.

Chops

Jeffrey Begens - March 01, 2019 at 11:50 AM

AN

Thank you for all you did for my Mom.

Ami Nelson - March 05, 2019 at 08:46 PM

MR

“ *Phyllis was everyone’s mom in West Hill. Sledding in your backyard was the best! I loved that she let me play with your old Barbies whenever we visited (I still have one or two!) The concerts featuring the “wash tub band” in your parents’ living room will forever be a wonderful memory.*

Michelle Dalby Rispole - February 28, 2019 at 06:40 PM

JB

Michelle

I forgot all about the wash Tub Band! Thanks for the fond memory. West Hill was unique.

Jeffrey Begens - March 01, 2019 at 11:52 AM

AN

Such great memories!

Ami Nelson - March 05, 2019 at 08:48 PM

TI

“ *Please accept our deepest sympathies over the loss of Phyllis. We pray that God will provide the family with the strength needed to endure this difficult time. As one faithful man said, I have hope toward God, that there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. May the Family cherish these words and find comfort in this wonderful hope from God. jworg*

Tim - February 28, 2019 at 08:55 AM