



Margaret Travis Weakley

December 13, 1915 - March 17, 2019

Margaret Travis Weakley (also known as the Waffle Lady and Ms Perfect) passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 17, 2019 at age 103. She was born December 13, 1915 in Mountain Home AR to James Hammond Travis and Lydia Cowan Travis.

When Margaret was 2, the family moved to Milwaukee WI because her father got a job as foreman of Milwaukee Light Gas & Water. In their large home they had a radio which was a luxury item at that time, a copper wash tub in the basement and playrooms in the attic. Watching the lamplighter light the gas lamps was a daily ritual for the children. Margaret was the middle girl of 3 sisters with a younger brother.

During the 1918 worldwide flu epidemic the Travis family got sick - except for 3 year old Margaret. After the doctor came to the house and left a prescription, Margaret was sent to the drugstore. She crossed a boulevard and walked several blocks alone to bring the needed medicine home.

Several years later when their father was recovering from a work injury the family moved back to the Mountain Home farm since urban jobs were uncertain in the country's worsening depression. Margaret excelled in math and represented her district in the statewide algebra tournament her senior year.

After graduating from Arkansas Tech in Russellville AR she moved to Brownfield TX where she was hired immediately to clerk in a dry goods store. She was soon promoted to buyer and went to Dallas regularly to select stock for the store.

After Pearl Harbor she volunteered as a WAVE in the US Navy. Following boot camp in Bloomington IN, she was transferred to the Naval Air Station in Millington TN serving in the Supply Corps. She and several friends volunteered 3 nights a week in the pharmacy at St Joseph's Hospital in Memphis. One of her jobs was adding saline to the powdered penicillin making it available for doctors to administer this new revolutionary antibiotic.

After her WAVE commitment ended, Margaret enrolled in St Joseph Hospital School of Nursing to become a Registered Nurse. As a student nurse, she worked with the hospital staff. At that time, hospital policy dictated that a life threatening diagnosis was withheld from the patient but explained to family members. Margaret was assigned to tell the husband of one of her patients this news. As expected, his wife died. A year or so later the bereaved husband called the nurse who was nearing graduation. They dated and fell in love. Margaret married Bob Weakley, a certified public accountant, in 1948. They had 21 happy years of marriage before Bob's death in 1969.

For over 37 years she worked as an office RN with the same group of urologists before retiring at age 88.

Calvary Episcopal Church has been her church home ever since she came to Memphis and she volunteered at the Lenten luncheon making waffles - including returning at age 100 after a broken hip. David Waters wrote an article in the Commercial Appeal on the Waffle Lady legend. At Calvary she was also a Stephen Minister and she signed birthday cards sent to parishioners. After retirement, she chose to move into Trezevant Episcopal Church Home where she began answering the question "How are you?" With her humorous signature "I'm perfect" then in a quieter voice she adds "but I lie a lot". Everyone laughs and this has given her the title of Ms Perfect.

Margaret is survived by her daughter, Nan Thomas, son-in-law John Thomas, and grandson Travis Thomas. She is predeceased by her husband Robert Baker Weakley, parents James and Lydia Travis, siblings Janice Denton, Elizabeth Roberts, Jim Travis.

A memorial service will be held at St Edwards Chapel in Trezevant Manor on March 28th at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, any contributions can be made to the Trezevant Foundation or the charity of your choice.

Cemetery

Calvary Church Columbarium
102 N 2nd Street
Memphis, TN, 38103

Events

MAR
28

Memorial Service

01:00PM

St. Edward Chapel at Trezevant Manor
177 N. Highland St., Memphis, TN, US, 38111

Comments



“ Nan, your mother was just the best to me, and I treasure the times we had at your home as little girls, playing in the shade and always being treated so kindly by your mom. She always had a sweet smile and a sparkle in her eyes. I am very sorry for your loss. She had a long and wonderful life, and may your mom rest in sweet peace.
Sue Hawkins Painter

Sue Painter - March 27, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Margaret Travis Weakley.



March 27, 2019 at 01:34 PM