



Helen Marie O'Reilly Harkins

April 26, 1934 - December 28, 2020

Helen Marie O'Reilly Harkins, 86, our mom, known as "Honey" to her family, passed away Monday, December 28, 2020 after a short illness of Covid-19 while residing at the Clinton Presbyterian Community, Clinton, SC.

Helen was born in the Bronx, New York on April 26, 1934 to James Patrick and Helen Lanahan O'Reilly and was the fourth child and only girl. She attended Mount St. Ursula Prep School and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the College of New Rochelle. She joined J.P. Morgan and quickly became their first woman executive. She married John "Skip" W. Harkins on May 16, 1959. Together, they raised their children mostly in Manhasset, NY and Atlanta, GA. As the children entered college, Helen began a 20-year career with Bank of America retiring in April 1999 as a Vice President of Trust. After retiring, she and Skip enjoyed fifteen years in Fernandina Beach, FL, but then moved to Clinton, SC in 2015 to be near their son.

Helen was a loving wife and mother. She enjoyed playing bridge having learned it at a very young age and went on to win the Corporate City Bridge Competition while at J.P. Morgan. She also enjoyed golf, and doing Sudokus. She spent hours analyzing the market and making excellent investments. She is preceded in death by her husband, John W. Harkins, son, John F. Harkins, and her brothers Hugh and James.

She is survived by her three children: Jeanne (Christopher) DeVita, Timothy (Angie) Harkins, and Catherine (Ken) Wills, and nine grandchildren: Riley Harkins, Anne Marie DeVita, Peter DeVita, Brandon Wills, Jack Harkins, Theresa DeVita, James Wills, Daniel Wills and Allison Wills; her brother Eugene (Dolores) O'Reilly and Edward (Donna) O'Reilly.

Funeral arrangements will be announced in the future. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Covenant House or Catholic Relief Services, two of her favorite charities.

Gray Funeral Home of Clinton

Comments



“ I can agree with the comments about Helen's brilliance and beauty since we were fellow math majors at the College of New Rochelle as well as fellow Bronxites. With the Georgia elections on my mind I had been thinking of Helen since my last communication with her was when she was in Atlanta. I offer the family my condolences. Eileen Maxwell Canty.

Eileen Maxwell Canty - January 04 at 03:29 PM



“ We are so sorry about your lost. Helen must have been a wonderful person to have raised such a wonderful family. Our condolences to you, Jeanne, and to your family. Prayers are sending your way.

Loni - January 01 at 10:36 PM



“ Dr. Harkins and all your family, I am so sorry to hear of your Mother's death. So hard to lose a loved one especially your Mother. Remember the good times and look forward to see her again in Heaven! Thinking and praying for you. Madonna Turner

Madonna Turner - December 30, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ Dear O'Reilly-Harkins Family,

We understand how difficult is the passing of a beloved mother. Helen was such a kind person and so smart! I loved hearing stories of her brilliance from her daughter, Jeanne and wish I could have known her better. Jeanne seems to be a lot like her in that she is so kind and smart as well. Helen was a beautiful lady and so valued, especially by her family. May she rest in peace and may God comfort those left behind with fond and happy memories.

Warmly,

Shawn and Diane Gorham and Family (Brother and sister - in - law)

Diane Gorham - December 30, 2020 at 01:27 PM