



Shirley Loomis

December 22, 2019

Shirley Loomis, 92, of Westbrook, CT passed away peacefully on December 22, 2019 after a brief illness. She was born in Hartford, CT on October 5, 1927, the daughter of the late Doris Edna (Holmes) and Rodney Lyman Loomis Sr. She lived most of her life in West Hartford, CT. In 1945, she graduated from Oxford School in Hartford. She later received a BA in Education from Russell Sage College and an MA from Springfield College; becoming the first member of her family to obtain a postgraduate degree. She taught Physical Education for over thirty years, mostly at West Hartford's Plant Junior High, where she was popular with many students and fellow staff members.

She retired in the early 1980's to spend time care for her ninety-year-old mother. After retirement, she continued to enjoy a very active and productive life. She participated in many volunteer activities; pursued numerous hobbies; regularly played sports and games including tennis, golf, bowling, and bridge; and traveled widely throughout The United States and Canada, often as part of birding and wildlife tours, which were a particular interest of hers.

Shirley was devoted to her family; she was the “fun aunt”, acting as an extra parent and grandparent to her nieces, nephews, and their children. She gave us her time and loving attention and shared her wide-ranging skills, and her avid curiosity and enthusiasm for life. She taught us how to play tennis, golf, sailing, various card games, sewing, and gardening. She enjoyed reading to us; exposing us to fairy tales, children's classics, Shakespeare and Greek Myths. She took us to museums, zoos, historic sites, NYC's 1964-65 World's Fair, Washington DC, and to visit family members in Florida. During summers, we helped her raise Monarch Butterflies from the caterpillar eggs she'd collected; thereby helping in a small way to preserve that species. She also passed along a fiercely competitive spirit, which she gleefully demonstrated by playing cards with a savagely “cut-throat” tenacity. In all these ways, she helped us become more complete people, with broader talents and interests and a zest to learn more.

Shirley was often the family's “Fixer” who willingly helped solve problems. If someone was

sick, or facing other issues, she always stepped up to offer aid and support. She took care of both her parents at the ends of their lives, and frequently helped the rest of us whenever we needed it. Her support didn't end with her family, many friends and former students also received her help and she volunteered to assist a number of local organizations. Most of our friends and neighbors called her "Aunt Shirley"; a tribute to the unselfish, unconditional love she offered many. Though she never sought recognition for all she did; she made our world a better, brighter place. We were all so lucky to have her in our lives and we're glad she touched so many others with her frequent good deeds and upbeat, helpful nature.

Shirley is survived by her nephew Milford (Bud) Loomis Jr. and his wife Patricia Rose, of Westbrook, CT with whom she lived for the last several years of her life; and by nieces: Laurie Crain and husband David of St. James, MO; and Ellen Weinbaum and husband Marty of St. James, Mo. She is also survived by great nieces Katharine Loomis; Jessica Loomis; Julie Carlson and husband Mike; Mary Ruth Waggoner and husband Jake; Julie Weinbaum; Dawn Weinbaum; Emily Weinbaum; by great nephew Andrew Crain and wife Ashley; and by great great niece Coraline Crain.

In addition to her parents, Shirley was predeceased by brother Rodney L. Loomis Jr.; brother Milford H. Loomis Sr. and sister-in-law Gwendolyn (Deabler) Loomis; and brother Donald M. Loomis and sister-in-law Ruth (Harrison) Loomis. She was also predeceased by niece Robin G. Loomis.

There will be no public calling hours. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. There will be a memorial service and celebration of Shirley's life at 11am on Saturday, January 18th 2020 at First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford, 12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to National Wildlife Federation, or to First Church of Christ Congregational of West Hartford. Arrangements are being handled by Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, 136 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. To share a memory of Shirley or send a condolence, please visit <https://www.taylorandmodeenconnecticut.com>.

Comments



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Bud,

My memories of Shirley predate my being your next door neighbor on Blvd....

She was my gym teacher at Plant!! She and I often had fun sharing that memory when she came to visit you and your parents...

You are a Loomis survivor surrounded by so many losses! I hope you and PattyRose are well... I miss you.... Kay Doyle

Katherine Doyle - December 29, 2019 at 10:08 AM



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Thanks for the kind words, Kay. We miss you too. Hope you're doing well these days.

bud loomis - December 31, 2019 at 08:02 AM