



## Margaret E. "Dellen" Schermerhorn

January 17, 1935 - October 11, 2020

Rye – Margaret E. “Dellen” Schermerhorn, 85, a Rye resident since 1998, former longtime resident of Madison, NJ, passed away peacefully with family at her bedside on Sunday, October 11, 2020.

She was born in Morristown, NJ on January 17, 1935 a daughter of the late William T. and Edith (Briscoe) Smith.

Raised in Madison, she graduated from Madison High School with the Class of 1952. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts from Bucknell University, where she was a member of the cheerleading squad. Following graduation, she married her high school sweetheart and husband of 60 years, the late John R. Schermerhorn Jr, who predeceased her in 2016.

Dellen was a founding member of Twigs, a branch of the Women’s Association for the Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, NJ. The Twigs plan and execute fundraisers including the annual “Mansions in May” the preeminent fundraising event for the hospital. For many years, she was a volunteer manager of the Bargain Box, a Thrift Boutique that raises money for the hospital. When she moved to the seacoast, she volunteered for many years at Operation Blessings in Portsmouth. She was an active member of the Abeniqui Country Club in Rye Beach. She was an avid golfer and master level bridge player. She enjoyed the outdoors, especially hiking, but most of all she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Surviving family members include her children, Julie Siciliano and her husband Stephen of Madison, NJ, John R Schermerhorn III and his wife Dawne of Rye, Jeffrey Schermerhorn of Rye, Jill Schermerhorn of Stanhope, NJ and 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild, brother, Richard A. Smith and his wife Nancy of Rye .

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Options (<https://secure2.convio.net/cop/site/Donati>

on2?df\_id=1440&1440.donation=form1) , 16 Farber Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
or Autism Speaks (

# Comments

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“ Hi Dick and Nancy too, This is a nice way for me to be able to write to you. I'm not much good at hand writing letters anymore. I am very sorry to hear of Dellen's death. I usually have a long phone conversation with her around Christmas each year but we've been separated by most of our country all these years. You may remember that Dellen was a major part of my teenage years. I'll just let my mind wander.

We walked to school together every day. I'd cut through the backyards and most often I had to wake her up. Your mother wondered why I ever bothered. We usually made it on time. I imagine you remember I lived on Woodland Road. We had a really great group of classmates but she was my closest friend. We'd shop at Epsteins in Morristown on many occasions. We didn't get to know Ryer til our freshman year. Interesting to me that you both found your lifelong partners in high school. I also remember that you usually slept in til noon on Saturdays. You had a cat named Butch and he and I DID NOT get along. He bit me a couple of times when I brushed him off my lap. Dellen had a sterling silver elephant head ring that I loved and she loaned him to me for several years. I gave it back to her when we went off to college. I called him Elephantino. About twenty years ago I received a package from Dellen which contained Elephantino. An included note said that he wanted to live with me where the weather was warmer. I still wear him often as he lives on a chain with other silver doodads. People ask me about him

I'm just letting my thoughts wander. I belatedly thank you for a wonderful trip that I had in the summer of 1950. You were supposed to be with your family on a trip to the Canadian Rockies but you balked. Didn't want to leave Nancy and you had a good job digging ditches. It was a fabulous trip starting in Jasper and ending up in Salt Lake City where you dad returned a car to his brother who lived in Nevada, I think. He and his wife had made the reverse trip and left the car in Edmonton, Alberta for us. Your parents wanted to play a lot of golf and they needed a friend for Dellen. We hung out around the pools where the cute Canadian lifeguards worked. We sang our way on that trip, sitting in the back seat as we drove along. I have been back to Jasper and the lodge there twice since. Once in 1995 with Ed, my husband, and another time in 2018 with Nancy, my daughter.

I did not have the opportunity to be in or attend Dellen's and Ryer's wedding as I had our first baby in September 1956 but I did see them several times after, once in Texas and several times in Madison when I'd visit my parents. The last time I saw both of them was in 2006 when I flew east for my college reunion in Conn. I then drove to Rye and spent three days there. Quite a little Kennedy compound that you have there! I went to Dellen's shop in Portsmouth with her and rain spoiled a golf game that Ryer and I were supposed to have.

So I want you to know that many times I think of her and the fun we used to have. We were good kids and never really appreciated growing up in Madison until later in life we found out what a great place it was. I was back in 2002 for my 50th class reunion and of course they were both there. It s too bad that we lived so far apart but Ed's Coast Guard career had us all over the country. We came to the SF Bay Area in 1976

. Ed died in 2005 and I moved here into a retirement community six years later. So far my family has avoided the virus but we are pretty confined here. Two of my daughters live nine miles away along with three grandchildren, all grown. My oldest daughter is in the Milwaukee area and has two grown daughters. None of that generation are married so no greatgrands.

I hope you are doing okay in your older years. Do you still play the piano? I remember you were pretty good at it.

One again I am so sorry about Dellen. She was big in my life'

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Martha Kohr Lewis ( Marfakle@comcast.net)

**Martha Lewis** - November 05, 2020 at 04:45 PM

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“ Dear to the family of Dellen Schermerhorn, Pam and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Dellen. We both enjoyed her beautiful smile and welcoming manner. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.  
In His Grip, Jim & Pam Sheerin

**Jim & Pam Sheerin** - October 16, 2020 at 04:16 PM