



MARTHA ANN STEGAR

April 2, 1930 - April 1, 2024

Martha Ann Stegar of Winchester, Virginia, died April 1, 2024 just minutes away from her 94th birthday. She was born April 2, 1930, in Abingdon, Virginia, the daughter of James Long Stegar and Elizabeth Stephenson Stegar. Her childhood years were spent in Princeton, Kentucky; at age 13, she moved with her family back to Abingdon, where she was a graduate of William King High School. Martha Ann received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, with majors in English and mathematics. After her marriage in 1950 to Lew Deadmore, she devoted herself to raising her two daughters and engaging in civic activities in Atlanta, where she lived for 70 years before moving to Winchester, Virginia in January 2020. She served most notably as president of the Morningside Elementary School PTA and as a board member of the League of Women Voters of Georgia.

In 1963, Martha Ann went to work for the Georgia Tech Engineering Experiment Station (EES) as a science writer/editor in the Industrial Development Division. She worked for many years in economic and international development at EES (later renamed the Georgia Tech Research Institute), and ended her career in the Research Communications Office at GTRI in 1993. At GTRI, she received an award for outstanding service in research support.

Martha Ann married Yalçın Peker in November 1992, and the pair indulged their passion for travel, particularly to wild and beautiful places. She visited 100 countries on all seven continents. Memorable wildlife excursions included

African safaris, the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica, the annual polar bear migration in Churchill (Canada), and whale watching off Baja California, as well as rafting through the Grand Canyon. Besides adventure travel, her interests included genealogy, wildlife and the environment, archaeology, music and the arts. She was a long-time docent at Zoo Atlanta and a former volunteer at Fernbank Musuem of Natural History. She dug two summers at Tel Lachish in Israel and at a Native American site in Georgia, and visited archaeological sites worldwide. A former member of the Atlanta Lyric Opera Chorus, Atlanta Symphony Chorus and the Choral Guild of Atlanta, she had a special interest in Sacred Harp (shape note) singing.

Martha Ann was an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, and an active alumna of Agnes Scott College, serving many years as secretary of her class and with the Decatur Alumnae Chapter. A lifelong learner, she was a participant at Mercer Senior University and a history study group at Park Springs Retirement Community, before moving to Winchester. She particularly enjoyed being a Study Buddy with children at Mountain Park Elementary School in Lilburn.

Survivors include daughter, Evelyn (Lyn) Deadmore (Stan Taylor) of Atlanta; daughter, Lisa Sipp (David) of Winchester, Virginia, sister, Evelyn Hendrix, of Savannah, Georgia; and three grandchildren: Sage Sipp (Megan Baerg) of Tampa, Florida; Timothy Sipp of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Elizabeth Beasley (Ben Beasley) of Rockville, Maryland. She also is survived by two step-children, Emily Peker of Norcross, Georgia, and George Peker of Atlanta, six great-grandchildren, one great great grandson and loving nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in Winchester at a future date followed by a burial of ashes at Knollkreg Memorial Park & Cremation Gardens in Abingdon, alongside her parents. Memorial gifts may be made to the Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS), 3434 Roswell Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30305; or to the Fund for Agnes Scott, Agnes Scott College, 141 E. College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Mama, Yalcin and their grandson Timothy James Sipp will be interred together in Abingdon, Virginia between the graves of her parents.* ”



Lisa Sipp - April 19, 2024 at 08:33 PM

EP

“ *I will always be grateful for how great Martha Ann was to my Daddy. She was a world traveler just like him and together they explored the earth. This is them the day they left for India from the Atlanta airport. Now I pray they are exploring in Heaven.* ”



Emily P. - April 19, 2024 at 07:16 AM

NK

“ *Martha Ann was our "Yenge" (auntie in Turkish). She never let language come in between her and her and Canan, and communicated with her through her heart. We loved her so much and she loved us. With her intelligence, experience, wisdom, kindness, and enthusiasm, all covered by a veil of humility, she was an amazing person. It was a privilege to have her in our family and we will miss her greatly. Rest in peace dear Yenge, we love you.* ”



Nil Kalagoglu - April 09, 2024 at 09:52 AM

NK

“ Martha Ann was our "yenge" (auntie in Turkish) and she was a person who would not let the language barrier come between her and her family in Istanbul. She and my mom communicated without speaking, and my mom and I loved her for the amazing person she was. Kind, intelligent, caring, loving, enthusiastic, humble, fun, and the list goes on. She loved us and we loved her in spite of the distance. She fit so many lives into hers and yet covered all her experience and wisdom under a soft veil of humility. It has been a privilege to have her as our "yenge". Rest in peace dear yenge, we love you and we will always remember you.



Nil Kalagoglu - April 09, 2024 at 09:44 AM

VC

“ Met Martha and Yelcin on a travel adventure. What a wonderful lively couple. May warm happy memories give you comfort. Vivan

Vivian clifford - April 05, 2024 at 12:48 AM



“ Martha Ann was a remarkable woman and I'm glad to have known her. I'm so sad she's gone. May she rest in peace. —Kathleen Lewis

Kathleen Lewis - April 04, 2024 at 11:16 PM

TH

“ Sending my most deepest condolences to the family. Ms. Martha Ann was a dear friend to me. I will always keep her close to my heart. She was always so kind, loving a true gem. My you rest in peace, beautiful angel 🙏❤️😊

Trina Roberts her 6000 bldg. housekeeper - April 04, 2024 at 07:02 PM

EH

“ Evelyn Hendrix lit a candle in memory of MARTHA STEGAR



Evelyn Hendrix - April 04, 2024 at 04:17 PM

EH

“ My sister was my Beacon and Guiding Light. I loved and depended on her from my early childhood---I was a needy little sister. As she and I continued to share our lives to I came to also admire and respect her immensely. You have read her obituary---wasn't she amazing!! I really wanted to like her---I wanted her to be proud of me!
I now wish her a fond and most loving farewell. It saddens me to know in my core that we are no longer on this life's ride together. Yet she is with our Lord, free from anxiety, disappointment and pain. This knowledge eases my sorrow.
And now my sister, Martha Ann, live your spiritual life to the fullest and be on the lookout for me. It seems like all my life I a Have been imploring, "Hey Sissy, wait for me!". XxxxxOooooo!

Evelyn Hendrix - April 04, 2024 at 02:51 PM