Janice Sharp Adkins (1923 - 2015)

Adkins, Janice Sharp Williamstown, Mass. Janice Sharp Adkins, born Janice Ogle Sharp, died June 26, 2015, at the age of 91. Janice was born in Greenport, L.I., on August 14, 1923. She was the child of Hattie and Earl Sharp, both educators in Albany. She received her secondary education at the Albany Academy for Girls, and her BA in economics at Skidmore College. She worked as a buyer at Macy's in New York City during World War II, and married William H. Adkins II "Bill" upon his return from the War. They started married life in Williamstown, while Bill went to college at Williams College. Their first child William Hughlett Adkins III "Hugh" was born at the North Adams Hospital in 1947. They moved to Cambridge, Mass., in 1949 where Bill went to Harvard Law School and where Elizabeth Neumann, nee Adkins, was born in 1950. They then moved to Easton, Md., where Bill started his legal career and where Alden Sharp Adkins was born in 1952. Their fourth and last child, Leonard was born, in Easton in 1960. Janice was an active member of and volunteer in, the two communities in which she lived in during her adult life, Easton and Williamstown. In Easton she focused on the needs of children and early childhood development, through her volunteer efforts with Children’s Aid Society and then through her organization and establishment of the first day care center in Easton, the Adkins/Critchlow Day Care Center. She was also an active member of the United Way and many other volunteer organizations. In Williamstown she was a docent at the Clark Art Institute, a books-on-tape reader, and an active member of the Sweetwoods Senior community, where she was a resident for over ten years. From 1946 when she married Bill, the core of her life was Bill. He was the love of her life and she the love of his. In Easton they shared child-rearing responsibilities and Bill's legal career; in Williamstown they shared the joys of being grandparents and fully enjoyed retirement and being a part of the Williamstown community. They were married for 57 years. Janice survived Bill by 12 years, and she is survived by her children, Hugh, Liz, Alden and Leonard; and by her grandchildren, Meagan, Jessica, Sarah, Erin, Jorge, Zoe and Joyce, Malcolm, and Elizabeth and a by several great-grandchildren. She was also predeceased by her grandson, Michael. During her last few years, many wonderful and loving caregivers supported Jan and made her happy. Jan will be laid to rest next to Bill in Easton. The family is planning a celebration for Jan in Williamstown in August. Contributions, in lieu of flowers can be made to the Critchlow Adkins Child Center, Easton, Md. or to Hospice Services of Western, Mass.

Published in Albany Times Union on July 4, 2015