

HM '40

Ruth (Harris) Bennett(1920 - 2017)



Bennett, Ruth Harris

Pittsford: Passed away August 10 at the age of 97.

"Pooh," as she was known to her loved ones and many friends, was a proud daughter and granddaughter of the Joseph Harris Seeds family and was born on the original farm in 1920. She was a 1936 graduate of The Harley School, along with other life-long friends including and especially Richard, who would become her husband in 1941. She went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Wells College in 1940. After supporting Dick's service in WWII, either traveling by his side in the US or at home while he served in the Pacific, they went on to raise their family, and to spend happy times playing golf and traveling in the US and Europe (often with dear friends). Bermuda also became a semi-annual destination which they shared for many Thanksgivings with children and grandchildren.

Pooh devoted much of her time to volunteer work as a past president of the Junior League of Rochester and serving in various capacities on committees for both the Highland Hospital Auxiliary Board and the Country Club of Rochester. Pooh was also a 70 year member of the Chatterbox Club.

But second only to her family, most dear to her heart were the 17 years of volunteer work she spent at the University of Rochester researching and editing a series of scholarly volumes on Ralph Waldo Emerson. For her dedication to that work, in 1990 she was awarded the Associates Medal, praising her "impressive knowledge and calm, unassuming brilliance which earned her the respect and affection of her fellow editors and colleagues".

Pooh was a benefactor of many local and national non-profit organizations, focusing mostly on education, arts, and nature, the former of which was her primary interest—best demonstrated by her own voracious reading and the generous educational opportunities she provided for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Pooh left her mark in so many ways, not least of which were her many pithy and often funny comments on any and all topics. She will always be remembered for her devotion to her family and dear friends, her support of her community, and her incredible mind.

She is predeceased by Richard, her husband of nearly 75 years, and youngest son, James. Survived by son Richard V. (Tricia) Bennett, daughter Margaret Heminway, grandchildren Jennifer Heminway, Drew (Ryan) Heminway and Emily Heminway Henninger, great grandchildren Ella and Merritt Heminway and Julia Henninger, and many nieces and nephews.

We express heartfelt thanks to Dr. Nancy Shafer Clark, and Pooh's devoted aides Judy, Vivian, Carrie and Kennette, and most especially Debbie and Tocarra. Her life was made so much richer because of their compassionate care and friendship.

A casual toast to and remembrance of Pooh's life will be celebrated at the Country Club of Rochester on Saturday, August 19 from 2:00-4:00. There will be a private interment at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to The Harley School, 1981 Clover Street, Rochester, NY 14618. To share a memory of Ruth or send a condolence to the family visit www.anthonychapels.com.



Funeral Home

Anthony Funeral & Cremation Chapels
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