

Anne Kelly Hemphill(1922 - 2018) w '43

Anne Kelly Hemphill

Rumson - Anne Kelly Hemphill, a beloved Rumson-area matriarch for the past seven decades, died Friday, February 2nd, at her Little Silver home, two months after surviving surgery for a broken hip. She was 96 years old.

She was a city girl who moved to Rumson in her mid-20s and, with her husband Julian, raised six children in a merry household on Rumson Road, which, under the couple's gentle rein, became the site of various competitions and adventures. In the process, she became a second mom to many of her children's friends as well.

Anne Elizabeth Kelly was born on January 6, 1922, in Pittsburgh to Joseph A. and Katherine M. Kelly. In 1929, Anne's family, which also comprised two sisters and a brother, relocated to New York and a home on Manhattan's Upper West Side. She embraced the city and her new friends at her Catholic grade school. In time, she also became a proficient pianist, playing monthly recitals at Aeolian Hall at the age of 13.

After matriculating at the Convent of the Sacred Heart 91st Street School in New York during her high school years, she attended Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, graduating in 1943 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

During her childhood, the Kellys spent their summers on the Jersey Shore, first on Long Beach Island and then, more permanently, in Spring Lake. Their backyard in Spring Lake abutted the property of the Hemphill family, whose youngest son Julian took an interest in "the girl next door." Anne and "Dude" soon became a couple and married on July 22, 1943, in New York, with Ensign Hemphill able to break away from his war-time duties as a naval aviator in Pensacola, Fla., for the wedding.

A year later, the young couple began their family, and after the end of the war, they moved to Rumson in 1947. They sent their children to Holy Cross School in Rumson and then on to various prep schools and colleges.

In her child-rearing years, Anne also found time to serve her community. She was involved with the Public Health Nursing Association of Rumson, Sea Bright, and Fair Haven, serving three years (1968-70) as the organization's president. A voracious reader, she also served on the board of the Oceanic Free Library in Rumson.

At the age of 60, Anne lost the love of her life; "Dude" died suddenly of a heart attack in May of 1982. For her, there could be nobody to replace him. And for the last 36 years of her life, no one did.

She continued to lead a vibrant life, traveling and visiting with her children and grandchildren, reading her espionage novels, eating dark chocolate, and playing bridge with friends (which she did well into her 95th year) at the Seabright Beach Club and the Rumson Country Club, both of which she had joined in 1948 and had become their senior member in longevity.

She was a resident of Little Silver for the last two decades of her life. A devout Catholic throughout her life, she was a communicant of Holy Cross Church in Rumson and the Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven.

Anne is survived by her six children: Clifford Joseph Hemphill of Ewing, N.J.; Julian (Jay) Hemphill Jr. (Kelly Veilleux) of San Francisco; Joseph Kelly Hemphill (Robin) of Rumson; John Alexander (Lex) Hemphill (Nancy Melich) of Salt Lake City; Anne Tripp Fischer (Bub) of Vernon, Conn., and Mary Catherine (Mollie) Smith (George) of Clifton Park, N.Y. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Julian Hemphill; her parents, Joseph A. and Katherine M. Kelly; two sisters, Mollie Bergesch and Cass Armistead, and a brother, Joseph A. Kelly Jr.

The family would like to thank our mothers care givers Krystal, Isolyn and Nicky for their love and caring. Funeral arrangements are being made through Thompson Memorial Home, 310 Broad St., Red Bank. Visitation will be at the Funeral Home on Wednesday February 7th 4-7 pm. Funeral Services will be at the Holy Cross Church, Rumson New Jersey on Thursday February 8th at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Little Silver Library would be appreciated.

Funeral Home

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Anne Hemphill Obituary: Anne Hemphill's Obituary by the Asbury Park Press.

Thompson Memorial Home
310 Broad St. Red Bank, NJ 07701
(732) 747-0226

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