

Jean Petersen
Jean Westman Petersen

WD '46

August 6, 1924 - April 9, 2016

Raleigh

Jean was born on August 6, 1924. She died on April 9, 2016. During her 92 years on Earth, she lived a full life.

The youngest of four children, she grew up during the Depression on a farm in Southern Illinois. She finished high school during World War II, and she lost high school friends at Pearl Harbor. She graduated from the University of Chicago with a Master's Degree, and, while there, she met her husband Keith. They married, moved to Arkansas, and were both active in the civil rights movement and instrumental in integrating the public schools. She taught school in a nearby rural community and volunteered time to teach at Head Start. In 1966, Jean and Keith moved to Raleigh where she lived most of the rest of her life, and where she was an owner of the Etc. Crafts Shop for over 40 years. She loved her shop and the individuals who worked and did business there. She looked out for and worried about the poor, the unprivileged, and the repressed. She loved her dogs and her gardens.

Jean raised three children and loved her six grandchildren. Jean is survived by her children: Steve Petersen and his wife Michelle Frazier; Ann Petersen and her husband Bruce Cunningham; and Ruth Petersen and her husband, Beat Steiner. She is also survived by her six grandchildren: Jessica Petersen, Kirstin Petersen, Katherine Cunningham Stout, Alex Steiner, Jennifer Cunningham, and Stefan Steiner.

Jean touched many lives. At her request, there will be no memorial service. Her ashes will be spread by her grandchildren, children, and other family members at the farm she loved. The family requests that, instead of flowers, those of you who would like to do so, please make a donation to a charity of your choosing as we will be doing to the North Carolina Food Bank.

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