



Clara O'Keeffe Black

June 29, 1929 - May 26, 2022

Clara O'Keeffe Black, 92, passed away Thursday, May 26, 2022. A long-time resident of Tallahassee, Clara was born on June 29, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia, to John Eustace and Willie Belle (Cherry) O'Keeffe. She was a proud Bulldog, a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Georgia in 1950. She enjoyed the time she spent working executing technical specs and drawings for wind-tunnel testing in a precursor to the space program. While at Georgia, she met her beloved husband, Homer A. Black, to whom she was married for 56 years before his death in 2008. She supported his academic career at several universities before they arrived in Tallahassee in 1954 and made it their forever home. Homer's academic career took them on extended sojourns teaching at FSU programs abroad, including a year in Switzerland and a year in London. These trips sparked a love of travel, which took them on many trips all over the U.S. and the world. One of her many gifts was making friends wherever she went, and she maintained a world-wide network of cherished friends. In Tallahassee, she was a volunteer at Tallahassee Memorial as a "pink lady" in the nursery, as a docent at the Governor's Mansion and Goodwood Plantation, and was an active participant in the Tallahassee Junior League and the Garden Club of Tallahassee.

An avid quilter and past president of Tallahassee's Quilters Unlimited, her artistry and love of beauty was deeply appreciated by the family and friends worldwide who were wrapped in "a blanket of love" when they received the gift

of one of her quilts for special occasions. She delighted in entertaining, and decades of Homer's hungry graduate students were fed in her dining room. Her love of flowers spilled over into a wonderful garden at their home on North Ride, and she spent many years perfecting her flower arranging skills with the Altar Guild at Church of the Advent, as well as serving as their wedding coordinator. She has been a faithful and enthusiastic member of St. Peter's Anglican Church since 2005. She never met a stranger, and adored her growing family. Her favorite times included the entire family coming together during summers at Big Canoe, GA, where she loved organizing numerous family reunions for their extended families and beating her entire family regularly at Scrabble. The daily crossword puzzle and a cup of Typhoo tea was, for her, the perfect start to a busy day. More recently, she was an active participant in many activities at Westminster Oaks, where she had been making her home since 2006.

She is survived by her three children, Douglas O'Keeffe Black (Dede) and Margaret Black Groves (Dave) of Tallahassee, and William Homer Black (Diane) of Sandy Springs, GA, as well as grandchildren Davis Groves, Shannon Groves, John Groves, and Becca Black of Tallahassee, Katie Noble (Travis) of Dothan, AL, Michael Black (Ali) of Alexandria, VA, Catherine Evans (Josh) of Woodstock, GA and great-grandson Parker Evans.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 4th at 12 noon at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 4784 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL, with reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, per her request, donations in her memory may be made to St. Peter's Anglican Church Mission Fund. A private interment at Roselawn Cemetery will be held at a later date. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Black family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

St Peter's Anglican Cathedral
4787 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara O'Keeffe Black.*



June 03, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clara O'Keeffe Black.*



June 03, 2022 at 02:59 PM

EL

“ Dear Doug & Dede, Bill & Diane, Margaret & Diane, and all your families: I’m so sorry for your loss. I wish I could be with you for the service, but for this Friday through the next Wednesday I’ll have houseguests who are visiting from DC. I’ll be with you in spirit, though, and in these past days I’ve had so many wonderful memories of your mom and dad. They placed such value on family and devoted so much to keeping our far-flung families connected. What great reunions they hosted, and how many family weddings were blessed with Clara’s special Irish luck tucked away in the bride or groom’s shoe. That little O’Keefe coin has seen a lot of travel and spread a lot of luck, just as her quilts have spread a lot of warmth—and love, of course, which was the ingredient all your mom’s gifts shared in common. She had a long and wonderfully rich life of giving, and I know she and all of you were blessed as a result. Her passing marks the end of an era for a wonderful generation of the Black family, but what a beautiful legacy she and your dad have left. My heart is with you especially at this time. —My love to all, Ellis

Ellis Loyd - May 30, 2022 at 02:45 PM

CG

“ My husband Bob Graham and I had the good fortune to recently move next door to Clara. She was so welcoming. Because we were not able to gather indoors due to the pandemic, Clara began "driveway drinkers" on Diplomacy. So many WO neighbors also share memories of how Clara welcomed them.

It is no surprise that Clara's family and Clara maintained close contact and that they are as kindly as Clara. Admittedly, having someone as special as she was makes her passing so painful. But it also leaves so many special memories. She enjoyed hearing the frequent bird calls that sounded like "sea foo". Numerous times a day the bird calls remind me of how lucky I was to have Clara, a warm, talented, kind lady as a WO neighbor.

Carol Graham

Carol Graham - May 30, 2022 at 02:24 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Clara O'Keeffe Black.



May 29, 2022 at 06:13 PM