



Walda "Wally" Reed Hurley

Compassionate Friend, Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother
and Great-Grandmother

July 27, 1934 - December 4, 2022

Dear Friend,

When we lose someone who has touched our life it is difficult. Some people make us feel so special that we don't realize just how many other people they made feel special too. That was Wally Hurley. She took the time to compliment people and make them feel good about themselves. She once wrote me a long letter of praise. I came to find

out that I was not the only recipient of such a correspondence. And she always made her friends feel like they were exceptional.

The day before Thanksgiving my husband Peter said to me, “Why don’t you bring Wally something for Christmas? You know how she loves Christmas.”

“Well, it isn’t even Thanksgiving yet; normally I drop by after Thanksgiving for Christmas,” I responded.

“True. But you know Wally, and she’ll be ready for Christmas.”

“You’re so right. I’ll go pick up a poinsettia. Besides, the plants will be in great shape now,” I told him. I love giving gifts. The prospect of giving to Wally before she made her rounds was challenging and fun. Little did I know that had I not visited at that time the opportunity would likely not have presented itself again, for only days later she passed.

When I arrived at the Hurleys’ I found that Peter was spot on: Wally had the entire house decorated. Emphasis on “whole.” “Leave no spot unadorned” was clearly her motto. She asked me to check out her tree, decorated entirely in pink. She challenged me to find the one ornament of a different color. Instead, I insisted that a lot of the balls appeared red to me.

She proved to me that they were indeed pink and the standalone ornament was a black sheep. It was a statement that they believe everyone belongs and that standing out is fine and dandy. Wally and Jim were accepting of everyone’s differences and in fact embraced them. They embraced community and were inherently inclusive.

Wally loved the holidays. She was the Easter Bunny and Santa all rolled into one big delivery service. She showered her friends with love and gifts from the heart. When she wasn’t running things hither and yon she sent her husband Jim and daughter Leslie on those errands.

CU Trustee Emeritus Gladis McGraw, and retired Wood School secretary, relayed that Wally and Jim adopted a family each Christmas, usually one of their daughter Leslie’s students. They were part of the Wood School family. The Hurleys always held the faculty parties at their lakeside home; they were consummate entertainers and magnificent hosts. Gladis said that Wally’s blue convertible VW Beetle was well-known as a Santa car.

Wally was also notable for her stylish and immaculate overall grooming, and Sue Fenili, CU trustee and longtime friend of Wally, reminded me about her pearls. Many people described her as refined and gracious. Her grandson was asked what he liked best about his “Nanu” and he replied with certainty, “She was consistent.”

At her service three grandchildren and her daughter Leslie spoke. They described her as never being self-serving and as queen-like, compassionate, and loving, and they shared an expression coined by her granddaughter when young: “far nice.” She was enamored of her family and they were equally devoted to her.

When it came to loving, nowhere was it more apparent than her love for her husband Jim. Her sparkly eyes twinkled with great intensity for him. They were business partners and Wally was graduate of Wesley College in Delaware. They ran *Hurley Associates Advertising and Public Relations* as a team. In fact they were a team in all

things. Through life's crises and joys, Wally gave caring support.

Not only was she consistent, she was always planning and preparing to implement her next task. I was leading a CU tour of the churches on the Bayshore Byway when we entered the Presbyterian Meeting House cemetery in Bridgeton. There I saw Wally and Jim's tombstone, which was unlike the others. I called Wally and when she answered I said, "I was just checking to see if you were alive, because I'm standing over your tombstone." We both started laughing so hard that it was a few moments before she could reply, "I just wanted the kids not to have to do any planning." That was Wally: always caring and considerate.

That is true. But I also think that Wally and Sinatra had something in common as expressed in the song, "I did it my way." And Wally's way was "far nice."

Our condolences go to Jim, Leslie, Jamie, and Kerri Anna, and their families. She will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galletto
CU Maurice River Board President

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Wally's Obituary

At her instruction, Wally's obituary had just her nickname "Wally" Reed Hurley, her birth date, and date of her death, followed by the service time and location.

A Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, in the First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton. The family received friends and family from 2pm until 3pm and a service followed. There was be a private committal. Written condolences can still be sent to: rocaphannon@aol.com or visit our web site at: www.rocapshannon.com.

But her obituary had one more important detail: Wally suggested planting a memorial tree. Further it was suggested that donations be made to either
The Guidance Center in Millville, 2038 Carmel Rd, Millville, NJ 08332
or
Arm in Arm in Mercer County - donate at arminarm.org.

Wally and her husband Jim. A steadfast couple.



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