

## Margaret H. Hamachek

May 24, 1922 - Nov. 15, 2019



Margaret Hamilton Hamachek died peacefully Nov. 15, 2019 at the age of 97. She passed in her Portland home, surrounded by her three children. Margaret, affectionately known as Muggsie to her closest friends, was a woman of succinct words, quick wit and brilliant grace.

She was the third of four daughters born to Walter L. Hamilton and Augusta Rahr, May 24, 1922 in Manitowoc, Wis. Margaret's sisters were among her best friends and their strong ties linked together generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who remain friends.

Margaret attended Milwaukee Downer in Wisconsin and then went on to Connecticut College for Women. While at Connecticut College, she spent considerable time away from campus in New Haven (home to Yale, then an all men's college). Nonetheless, Margaret's thirst for knowledge never faltered and she remained a voracious reader of all subjects until her dying day.

In 1944 Margaret married Lt. Commander Russell E. Hamachek. After Russell's tour of duty in the South Pacific, the couple settled

in their home town of Manitowoc to build their life together. Russell adored Margaret and the two had a romance that endured 66 years of marriage, three children and many dogs.

In 1957, the family moved to Portland, Ore. The move was supposed to be for three years, but they quickly discovered that winter rain beat shoveling snow. In Portland, Margaret honed her golf game and mastered duplicate bridge becoming a life master. She also enjoyed spending time at their cabin near the mouth of the Wilson River in Tillamook. Both glamorous and tough, she was an excellent wing shot and enjoyed salmon fishing and crabbing. In their later years, Margaret and Russ lived in Maui where they perfected both their golf and tennis games. Eventually the couple moved to Tucson. Margaret returned to live full time in Portland after Russell's death.

Although you could take the woman out of Wisconsin, you could not remove her passion for the Green Bay Packers. In Tucson, Margaret and her younger sister, Elizabeth, often arrived early at a local tavern assuring they'd get the best seats to cheer the Packers. She rarely missed a game.

Margaret approached everyone she met with a great sense of curiosity. As an outspoken critic of religious, ethnic and racial intolerance-- she was never afraid to speak her mind clearly and succinctly. She particularly loved learning about others' cultures and beliefs, and, as a result, was an enthusiastic traveler. She especially loved Mexico and was fluent in Spanish.

Margaret was involved with the Portland Junior Symphony and the Junior League. She was a member of Waverley Country Club, Tucson National Golf Club, The Racquet Club, The Portland chapter of Garden Club of America and The Town Club.

She was preceded in death by Russell; and her two older sisters. She has three children, **Tod** (Barbara) of Ketchum, Idaho, **Dede DeJager** (Joseph) of Portland and **Jay (Babs)** of Lake Oswego. There are six grandchildren: **Jamie DeJager** of Prescott, Ariz., **Mark Hamachek** of Seattle, **Elizabeth Herrick** (Sam) of Ketchum, Idaho and **Katie, Tori and Natalie Hamachek** of Portland. Her great-grandchildren, **Gus and Grayson**, knew her as **Gammie Muggsie**.

Muggsie's dazzling smile, incredible intellect and strong will to love will be missed.

A private celebration of life will be held later this winter.

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