

Ellen Cramer Culver

November 4, 2017

Clipping from *The Plain Dealer*, 11/06/17

Aged 78, Ellen Sutphen Culver, of Cotuit, MA, died peacefully on November 4, 2017. She was the daughter of the late Charles Sutphen Cramer and Beatrice Sandburg Cramer. Raised in Somerville, NJ, Ellen attended Mount Holyoke College, followed by Columbia University, where she graduated with a B.S. and R.N.

She married her beloved husband of 55 years, John E. Culver, who survives her, in New York City at St. Paul's Chapel, the oldest public building in Manhattan, which was partially built by her Dutch ancestors in 1766. Ellen and John later moved to Shaker Heights, OH, where they raised their two children, who also survive her: son Eskridge, husband of Lucy, and daughter Elizabeth, wife of Jorma Osteen. They were proud to have four much-loved grandchildren, Jennevieve and Lillie Culver of New York City, and Shiva and Ocean Osteen of Grass Valley, CA. Ellen also is survived by her sisters Constance and Elisabeth, both of New Bern, NC, several nieces and nephews, and dear friends worldwide.

Ellen worked for eighteen years as a nurse at a Level I Trauma Center in Cleveland, OH. Her volunteer work in Ohio included the boards of the Cleveland Orchestra and the Suicide Prevention Center, the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Junior League of Cleveland. In 1994, she and John moved to Cotuit, MA. Initially, Ellen was the "flying nurse," commuting to Nantucket's Cottage Hospital to practice critical care nursing. She continued her volunteer work on Cape Cod by serving on the boards of the Cotuit Library, Cotuit Historical Society, and Barnstable Land Trust. She also volunteered at The Cahoon Museum, where she and others produced the best-selling cookbook, *Fishtails and Pearls*. At St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, MA, Ellen served on the vestry, was a chalice minister, and took communion to homebound parishioners. Two life-changing mission trips to Haiti with Ridge, and one to Venezuela with Elizabeth, left a lasting impact.

Ellen especially enjoyed playing tennis, boating, reading, hiking, travel, and hosting family and friends. During the summer months, Ellen could often be found on the water, aboard *Fog Bank II*, or relaxing with a good book on Sampson's Island. A memorial service will be held on a future date in the summer 2018. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Cotuit Library (P.O. Box 1841, Cotuit, MA 02635), Barnstable Land Trust (P.O. Box 224, Cotuit, MA 02635), or the MSPCA Cape Cod Adoption Shelter (1577 Falmouth Road, Centerville, MA 02632).

Deceased Person Comments

Widower: Mr. John E. Culver, 394 Old Oyster Rd, Cotuit, MA 02635-3037