



Dorothy Hagesfeld McMahon

August 3, 1914 - May 9, 2013

On May 9, 2013, Dorothy Hagesfeld McMahon, age 98, of Oakland, formerly of Cleveland OH., beloved wife of 60 years to the late John J. McMahon; mother of John McMahon Jr. of Cleveland OH., Mona (Tom) Murphy of Pittsburgh, PA., Brian McMahon of Palm Desert CA., Neil (Jan) McMahon of Portland OR.; grandmother of Shannon, Molly & T.J. Murphy; great-grandmother of Wyatt McMahon Murphy; Preceded in death by her brother, the late Edward Hagesfeld.

Dorothy lived a long and wonderful life. Born in 1914, on the eve of World War I, she lost her mother, Ruby Schrapf Hagesfeld to the Flu Pandemic of 1918. Through the Great Depression, and the constraints of being a woman in early 20th century America, Dorothy's strength and perseverance never wavered. Her intelligence and love of learning won her a college scholarship to Ursuline College in Cleveland, OH. She was the first person in her family to go to college. After graduation, she worked as a teacher and executive assistant.

In 1942, she married John McMahon and had four children. As a stay-at-home mom, she used her intelligence and skills to become a "contester," amazing friends and family as she wrote hundreds of jingles and slogans to win time after time. The crowning achievement was a trip to Holland to meet Queen Beatrix.

Dorothy lived to see the rise of the automobile, television, and computers, but she embraced it all. She never lost her love of reading and quest for knowledge, even conquering the computer.

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Tribute Wall

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“ *Jack, Mona, Brian and Neil:*

Why couldn't Ed and Bonnie be more like John and Dorothy? You were all blessed with caring, compassionate and kind parents. Aunt Dorothy told me not to pray for her life, but rather her death. God does answer prayers.

*Love,
Marlene*

marlene hagesfeld - May 15, 2013 at 07:37 PM