



Margaret S. Benson

September 15, 1939 - September 19, 2018

Margaret S. Benson passed away at her home in Manassas, Virginia on Wednesday, September 19, just a few days after her 79th birthday.

Meg, as she called herself, was born September 15, 1939 in Hamburg, Iowa, the youngest child and second daughter of Herman E. and Dorothy C. Solzman. Meg grew up in Hamburg, was musically talented, both in singing and playing clarinet in the marching band and loved playing cards with her best friend Nancy.

After graduating from high school, Meg went to William Jewell College before taking a job in Omaha, Nebraska. While there, through her friend Nancy, she met her future husband, Edward L. Benson Jr. and they married on February 22, 1969 at the First Baptist Church in Hamburg.

Together they traveled the world, first as the Air Force took them across the U.S. (Nebraska, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Washington State, Vermont, Maryland, Texas) and then after joining the Foreign Service, to Ghana, Ivory Coast, Germany and Pakistan. Kindred spirits, they took every opportunity to see the world, meet new people and try new foods. Margaret, as Ed called her, was an avid gardener and loved digging in the dirt, most especially on the 4th of July when she could hear and revel in the marching bands going by. Meg was intentional about planting flowers and shrubs for butterflies and

hummingbirds but always ensured other birds and squirrels had their own feasts as well. Meg loved to shop, particularly for clothes, and gladly purchased and shared her love of fashion with others. Always interested in other people, Meg knew how to draw people out and was an attentive listener. Generous, kindhearted, and compassionate, Meg lived her faith every day, encouraging, supporting and helping people in their need.

Upon returning to the U.S., Meg worked at the State Department, retiring in 2015 as a secretary in the New Zealand Pacific Island Affairs office.

Meg was a member of Hillendale Baptist Church in Woodbridge, VA and a beloved member of the choir. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Claire, her mother-in-law Kate Benson, and her husband Ed. Survivors include her sister, Beth Underwood of Rockport, Missouri; nieces and nephews; her father-in-law Ed Benson of Norwalk, Iowa; sister-in-law Janie (Benson) Hildreth and brother-in-law Fred Benson, both of Indianola, Iowa; and daughter, Amy Benson Rogers, her husband Roger, and their son, Theodore, along with Meg's cats Zeke and Sophie.

A celebration of life service and luncheon will be held Saturday, October 13 at 11am at Buckhall United Methodist Church (10251 Moore Drive) in Manassas, VA 20111. Memorial flowers may be sent to the church or a memorial donation may be made to the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret S. Benson*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM