



Margaret Rose Pekarik Bates

November 30, 1924 - August 14, 2019

Margaret Rose Pekarik Bates, of Atlanta, Georgia and previously of Merritt Island, Florida, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2019. She was 94 years old.

Margie was born on Sunday, November 30, 1924 in Lansford, Pennsylvania to the late Suzanna Surej and George Pekarik, where her father was a contract coalminer for the Leigh Coal & Navigation Company. She was the 9th of 11 children and was the last surviving. At the time, Lansford was a very prosperous town and Margie told many great stories of growing up there. She attended St. Michael's Slovak Catholic School and Lansford High School. After graduating, she moved to New York City, where she worked first as a nanny, then a grocery clerk and lastly at Macy's Department Store.

When her father passed away in 1943, Margie moved back to Lansford to be with her mother. Her mother had a younger sister living in Tacoma, Washington, so Margie and her mother rode the train from Lansford to Tacoma and spent 3 months visiting. Her stories of this time were wonderful.

In 1949 Margie saw a poster in Lansford saying "Join the Navy Waves". She went into the recruiting office and enlisted. A highlight of her short Navy career was being chosen for a special platoon section to walk down Chicago's Michigan Avenue in the Memorial Day Parade in the freezing cold.

Margie was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas where she met Seaman Billy Bates. They married on April 8, 1950, left the Navy and moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Both of their children, Deborah and Michael, were born in Atlanta.

In 1956 Bill re-enlisted in the Navy and their every 2 year move began: California, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Connecticut, South Carolina, Virginia, Guam, Florida, Scotland, Florida.

Marge loved to cook gourmet meals for her family and used all the cookware and gadgets that she purchased during their travels. When Bill was stationed at Dam Neck in Virginia Beach, Marge started hosting cocktail parties. She made all of the hors d'oeuvres herself and would invite two couples. By the time Marge hosted her last big cocktail party (for Bill's retirement in 1983) her invite list had increased to almost 100. And she continued to make all the hors d'oeuvres herself. The dining room table would be filled with items such as bite size lumpia, Scotch eggs, lemon tarts, meatballs, strawberries dipped in sour cream and brown sugar, stuffed mushrooms, rock shrimp. Her parties were not to be missed events and were attended by people as far away as England and Scotland.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband Bill, her son Michael, and her grandson Adam. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Chapman and husband Jeff, her grandson Noah Michael Bates and wife Rachel, her two great-granddaughters, Emma Margaret and Mae Claire, and her daughter-in-law Debbi Bates.

Marge was a loving and generous wife, mother, mother-in-law, Baba and friend. Her passing is a great loss. She was loved and forever will be missed.

Margaret Rose Pekarik Bates was interred at Cape Canaveral National

Cemetery next to her husband Billy Gene Bates.

Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret Rose Pekarik Bates*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM