



Anna Eileen Hughes Klebenow

April 11, 2020

Anna Eileen Hughes Klebenow - of Knoxville passed away Saturday, April 11, 2020 at home. A descendent of original Tennessee settlers, she was born at Johnson City in the Watauga Community in 1922. As a longtime resident of Knoxville, she was a founding member of the West Hills Community Association, serving for years as the community association's vice president and being honored for her outstanding service to the association. She was also a former resident of Maryville, where her late husband Donald L. Klebenow was assigned by the Air Force as consultant to the Air National Guard before the couple moved to Knoxville.

She is preceded in death by her husband Don, who retired from a second career at Martin Marietta; her mother, Anna Belle Reynolds Hughes Watson; father, J.W. Hughes; step-father, Howard Watson; brother, William T. Hughes, a World War II veteran who served aboard minesweepers in the US Navy Pacific campaign; half-sister, Florence Hughes Pickering; two half-brothers, Sherman Hughes and Raymond Hughes; and beloved maternal aunts, Rose E. Reynolds, Ethelyne Reynolds Barlow Williams, Marjorie Reynolds Syms and Dorothy E. Reynolds; sister-in-law, June Frazier Hughes; nephews, Michael Winslow Hughes and Matthew C. Hughes; beloved cousins, Mrs. Carolyn Gail Barlow Hooks and Mrs. Rose Barlow Holley; niece, Deloris Craig; and step-brother Peyton Watson, Kingsport, TN.

She is survived by her daughter, Anne Klebenow, Knoxville; niece, Michelle Hughes Benson Hunt and family, Nashville; nephews, William E. Hughes, Atlanta, David Hughes and family and Thomas A. Hughes, all of Nashville; sister-in-law, Jane Oswald and her husband, the Rev. Art Oswald, Sheboygan, WI; nephew, Ted Hughes, Johnson City; nieces, JoAnn Campbell, Elizabethton, Anne Bender and Janice Price, both of South Carolina.

Known by her middle name, Eileen was recognized not only for her service to community and to those who needed help, but also known for her devotion to friends, her faith and family. She was a caregiver to her mother, husband, and two aunts. Among her volunteer

work was coordinating the first St. Jude's fund raising effort in Knoxville with the late St. Jude founder Danny Thomas, who recognized her efforts. Eileen was also a member of the city of Knoxville's original committee to bring a World's Fair to the city.

She was a member of the Bearden United Methodist Church and the Daughters of the American Revolution, Bonnie Kate Chapter, as well as a former president of the West Knoxville Republican Women's Club, and once named Knox County Republican Worker of the Year. Her ancestry included original Tennessee settler Col. John Tipton, a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1776 who led a company in the American Revolution and built a home in Johnson City in 1784 (today this is a state historic site known as the Tipton-Haynes Home). After the Civil War her great-grandfather settled in Watauga as a teacher/writer, living to be one of the State of Tennessee's oldest Civil War veterans. One of his sons was among the first residents of Palm Beach, FL, where two family members became mayors and helped grow the city. From Watauga, her grandfather later fought in the Spanish-American War. The family also helped establish the Watauga Methodist Church, remaining members until the church closed.

Eileen graduated from Johnson City's Science Hill High School, attended Johnson City Business College and was later employed at the Kingsport Press. She also studied music at East Tennessee State University. At the onset of World War II, however, she served that war effort as a member of the Women's Army Corp, Air Force branch. She subsequently met and married her husband Don, an Air Force command pilot at the time. Later spending three years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during her husband's assignment to the US Embassy there, she learned to speak fluent Portuguese and became president of the American Wives Club. After her husband's subsequent assignments at military bases in Hawaii, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri and Virginia and his retirement from the Air Force, the family settled in Maryville and then Knoxville. In most locations where the family lived, Eileen did volunteer work including that of a Girl Scout leader and Sunday School teacher.

Interment will be in Johnson City at Monte Vista Memorial Park beside her husband and featuring military honors. Eulogy will be given by Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr. and the Rev. Michael Lester, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Johnson City, will preside. Honorary pallbearers will include David Hughes, Thomas A. Hughes, William E. Hughes, Wesley Benson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bearden United Methodist Church, 4407 Sutherland Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37919 or the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, 6717 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919.

To watch the service stream, please click below:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoseMannHeritage/videos/620703208481950/>

Arrangements by Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel.

Events

APR **Interment**

17

Monte Vista Cemetery

1900 E. Oakland Ave., Johnson City, TN, US, 37601

Comments



“ Eileen was one of a kind, she would light the room up when she came into the restaurant. She never met a stranger, she reminded me so much of my grandmother. It was a pleasure and a privilege to know her. Anne we are very sorry for your loss and know you are in our prayers we love you.
Love, Robin Griffin, David and Donna Wright and all the friends at Wright's cafe

robin Griffin - April 21 at 08:44 PM



“ It was a true privilege to know Eileen, she was a Beautiful Lady inside and out. My heart goes out to you Anne. Love Always, Lisa

Lisa Tucker - April 20 at 11:11 AM



“ The service was absolutely amazing and the flowers gorgeous! So thankful it was a beautiful and sunny day. I love you so much and am here for you if you need anything at all.

Sheryl Burnette - April 17 at 01:44 PM



“ Dear Anne, I'm so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. From the stories you shared with me when we worked together, I know that you were extremely close. After reading her obituary posting, I was amazed that you were able to keep up with her!
I pray for you to have peace.
Anne Scruggs

Anne Groover Scruggs - April 16 at 11:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

Anne Groover Scruggs - April 16 at 10:57 AM



“ Elaine Varner purchased the A Full Life for the family of Anna Eileen Hughes Klebenow.



Elaine Varner - April 15 at 04:39 PM



“ Ann, we are sending our Love and Condolences at this sad news. Our Memories of your Family are a magnitude, and so much a part of our lives. We wish we could be with you. Diffiicult times!!

The Pelots - April 15 at 03:36 PM



“ So sorry for your loss, Anne. She was a proud and beautiful lady.
Mary Childress

Mary Childress - April 15 at 09:16 AM



“ Anne, Please know that you are in our prayers. Your mother was a very special lady who made a real difference in this world. I am forever grateful for the impact she had on my life and the lives of many, many others.

Mike Flynn - April 15 at 08:36 AM



“ Anne - I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was an extraordinary lady. I hope you are doing well and would love to catch up and see you after COVID-19.

Angela Gamble - April 14 at 08:52 PM



“ Anne,

I am so very sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a very special lady and one who made a big difference in our community. Prayers.

Becky Duncan Massey

Becky Massey - April 14 at 12:59 PM