



Mrs. Katharine "Kitty" Ridgely Stierhoff

November 12, 1929 - March 3, 2021

Katharine "Kitty" Ridgely Stierhoff died March 3rd, 2021 at the age of 91. She had been living at the Broadmead Community in Cockeysville and was pre-deceased by her husband Hugh Stierhoff in 2014.

Born in Baltimore, MD, Kitty was the daughter of Chase & Katharine Ridgely and a 1948 graduate of the Bryn Mawr School.

A longtime advocate of women's issues and the power of the vote, Kitty joined the League of Women Voters (LWV) as a volunteer in the early 1960s and joined the Board of the newly created Baltimore County LWV which was started in 1966. She was instrumental in establishing the first office for the Baltimore County LWV in Towson and managed that office for many years, organizing volunteers and disseminating information to the membership and broader community. Additionally, Kitty also served on the Board of what is today called the Community Assistance Network (previously the Community Action Agency – HRDA), as a representative of the Baltimore County League.

While with the LWV she also became active in promoting affordable housing. While serving as the LWV Housing Chair in the late 80's, she worked to establish a livability code for Baltimore County and lobbied representatives to successfully pass Affordable Housing Bond Bills in 1992 and 1994. Kitty also helped form the Baltimore County Housing Coalition and served as the Vice President, and was also instrumental in establishing the Fuel Fund of Central

Maryland and served as a board member from 1980-1995. As recently as 2005 Kitty continued advocating for fair and affordable housing, serving on an advisory council working to eliminate discriminatory housing policies. In 2019 Kitty was honored by the LWV Baltimore County with their inaugural Volunteer Appreciation Award for her many years of service to the League and the community.

In retirement Kitty's sense of civic engagement did not wane as she served in various leadership positions, including Chair, of the Broadmead Residents Association. When it became clear that the York Road entrance/exit to and from Broadmead was unsafe and represented a hazard to residents and visitors of Broadmead, Kitty was active in representing the interest of the community to State, County and Local officials, to advocate for a traffic light or new safer traffic pattern. She was successful in her efforts and while not yet complete, work has started to improve the intersection and make it safer.

Though civically engaged, Kitty was not all work and no play. In their retirement Kitty and Hugh enjoyed traveling with friends and family to Europe and throughout the Southwest United States. She was never happier than when she was surrounded by family. She always looked forward to, and thoroughly enjoyed, family events that brought the whole family together. Kitty is survived by her children Dorothea Stierhoff, Lee Stierhoff, Peggy Mahaney (Dave), and Paul Stierhoff (Valerie), as well as seven grandchildren, Lawrence Stierhoff (Krix), James Stierhoff (Maisy), Leigh (Mahaney) Chapman (Bryan), Donald Mahaney, Matthew Stierhoff, Drew Stierhoff and Emma Stierhoff, along with three great grandchildren Lily Stierhoff, Hattie Stierhoff and Scott Chapman.

The family will hold a private ceremony to inter her ashes at the Church of the Good Shepard. A memorial service will be held at a later time. In the meantime, the family is considering a ZOOM online memorial. If you would like to be included in the ZOOM memorial invitation please email

paulstierhoff@comcast.net .

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers contributions be made in her honor to the League of Women Voters Baltimore County.