



Winifred Hollenbach

January 25, 1912 - June 18, 2016

Winifred Hollenbach, of Holland, died Saturday, June 18. She was 104 years old. Winifred, or "Winnie", as she preferred to be called, was born and raised in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. She attended the University of Wisconsin, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following graduation, she went to Paris, France, to attend the Alliance Francais, but with World War Two looming, she later returned to the United States, and attended Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston, Massachusetts. After a few years of doing private secretarial work, the University of Wisconsin beckoned again, and she returned to earn a Master's Degree in Library Science. It was while at the University of Wisconsin that she met Dr. John Hollenbach, who became her husband in the summer of 1941. For three years, they resided in Kirksville, Missouri, but in 1945 they came to Holland, Michigan, where her husband taught at Hope College, and she became an employee of the Herrick Public Library. Winnie's husband, John, loved the adventure of traveling and even living abroad. "Thanks to John", Winnie would say, "I truly got to see the world". Years were spent living in Egypt and Lebanon, and extended trips were made to Mexico, Australia, Japan, Yugoslavia, Austria, and England, to name but a few.

Winnie was a member of Century Club, Hope College Second Century Club, Tuesday Night Book Club, PEO, and the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP). She was a member of Hope Church. She is survived by her two sons, David (Jane) and John, better known as "Jeff" (Jane)

Hollenbach, three grandsons, Jeffrey (Kate), Edward (Jess), and James (Emily) Hollenbach, granddaughter, Anna (Sean) Murphy, six very special great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. At Winnie's request, cremation will be followed by a private family graveside service. Memorials may be made to Hope College, or to HASP. Winnie was a woman of grace, style, and old fashioned elegance, blended beautifully with great kindness and good humor. She often observed that during her entire amazing 104 years, she had been blessed with a "storybook life". She wanted us to thank all her wonderful family and friends. We thank her back, and we will all greatly miss her.

Tribute Wall



“ *Winifred Hollenbach*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I greatly admired Winnie. Never ruffled, never perturbed, and never, ever, mean-spirited. Always gracious, always generous. She was a gracious lady and a gift to Hope College. Kathleen Verduin"*

Kathleen Verduin - June 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"It is hard to say good bye to an old and dear neighbor and friend. She taught me which flowers would grow in shade and how to freeze peaches. She had such a calm and warm personality that is rarely seen. I am better for having been the recipient of her care."*

Shae Kobs - June 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Winnie was a very special lady and customer to us at Crane's In The City. She was a class act. We loved when she came in for pie or chili or a sandwich. Always upbeat and looked beautiful! Loved her bright red jacket! Remembered when she spent her 102nd birthday at CITC with us."*

Mary Jo Creevy - June 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"W"*

A friend - June 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TH

“I met Winnie twice in the past several years and each time she was so gracious as if she had known you for a long time. She was a member of my P.E.O. Chapter BW in Holland and contributed to all that our organization did for women's education. I know she was a great supporter of Hope Academy of Senior Professionals through her husband, John, its founder and first president. HASP has contributed to lifelong learning in retirement and active participation with the Hope College students. Winnie was well known to the members of our Holland community and will be missed. Terri Holden, President, HASP”

Terri Holland - June 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PE

“Winnie will always be one of the classiest and most delightful human beings I had the good fortune of knowing and befriending.”

Phil Van Eyl - June 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FH

“Good Bye to my long time favorite customer and a very special friend. Winnie had many stories she shared with me over the years. I will miss and always remember my very special friend. Faye (MIRA). Hirt”

Faye Hirt - June 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MW

“Dearest Winnie, a beloved member of the Warm Friend Knit Club, and a wonderful friend of mine. I've missed her for for the 5 years since I moved from Holland. A beautiful and charming lady, with a delightful sense of humor. Rest in peace, dear one. Mary Jo Waters.”

Mary Jo Waters - June 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“Winnie was a member of the Tuesday Evening Book Club since 1945. She was a wonderful gracious woman and an exceptional book reviewer. Those of us who knew her have so missed her presence since she became an emeritus member several years ago, but she always kept in touch. All our members send their sympathy to her family--we will all miss her so much! The Tuesday Evening Book Club, founded 1937 and still going strong!”

Cornelia Pepoy - June 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“Although I did not know Winnie very long, it was a pleasure and my good fortune, to have spent sometime with this very special "Lady". She was the grand dame of the Warm Friend and she was always a joy to help and to talk to. I will never forget this special person and my thoughts and prayers go out to her wonderful family. They too were always a pleasure to see. She will be missed-a lot! Christine Pospisil WF-TC.”

christine pospisil - June 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RO

“We are so sorry for your loss! Winnie & John were our neighbors for many years on Lakeshore. We took their mail in many times when they were on one of their trips. John always came to the house to ask us to take in the mail, rather than call. Both were such wonderful people!”

Ron - June 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM