



Marjorie Elizabeth Henderson

1920-2019

Marjorie Elizabeth (Magee) Henderson, 99, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at Walnut Place in Dallas Texas. She was born on July 18, 1920, in Houston, Texas, to Sadie Elizabeth (Gossett) Magee and Robert Earl Magee.

Marjorie enjoyed math and sports. As a child, she liked to roller skate, run, and bicycle hands-free. An excellent student, she graduated with a degree in mathematics from Texas Christian University and studied engineering at Rice University. Her interests as an adult included solving challenging math problems, repairing mechanical things, and sports, in particular golf, bowling, and pingpong. She also loved music of all types, from opera to chamber music to jazz. Marjorie married Lee Henderson in the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. While raising two daughters, she worked with him in his lumber, mining, and real estate development businesses. The family enjoyed camping and traveling, especially in Mexico. Along the way, using homemade nets, she and her children collected butterflies. Often full of fun, she once characteristically took up a dare from her children to yodel loudly in a very proper tearoom.

Marjorie became a math teacher in the Dallas Public Schools after being widowed in 1959. Trigonometry was her favorite course to teach, and she remained with the district for twenty years until she retired. While at W. T. White High School, she served as math department chair. She poured great energy into her teaching and set high expectations for her students, who described her as tough but consistent and helpful. Years after graduating, many students remembered with affection how she touched their lives.

In retirement Marjorie continued to lead a busy life. She spent much time with her namesake granddaughter, and the two formed a close bond. As a Dallas Zoo docent, she specialized in reptiles and helped develop a zoo education program that included taking live zoo animals into school classrooms. Also an avid football fan, she would loudly cheer the Dallas Cowboys at their games. In addition, she was active in the Unitarian-Universalist church and a stock club. Not one to sit still for long, she became a familiar sight to her neighbors as she walked the same, 3-mile, circular route every afternoon for decades.

In her late eighties, Marjorie developed Alzheimer's, from which she suffered for over a decade. Her final years were spent at Walnut Place in Dallas, where she died peacefully and with family present. The family expresses its gratitude for the compassionate care provided by the staff at Walnut Place. She was loved and will be sorely missed.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Mary Lucille (Magee) Lockett and Robert Earl Magee, Jr.; and her husband, Lee Henry Henderson. She is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth (Henderson) Walley (husband Michael) of Mesquite, Texas, and Lela Elaine Henderson of Little Rock, Arkansas; granddaughter Marjorie Elizabeth (Leong) Greenberg (husband Daniel) of Alexandria, Virginia; great-grandchildren Jacob, Robert, and Rachel Greenberg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial reception will take place on Sunday, December 22, 2019, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Avenue. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

Published by Dallas Morning News on Dec. 15, 2019.