

Evelyn Adele Hedges Marchant

Evelyn Adele Hedges Marchant, affectionately known as "Kai," passed away peacefully at the age of 85. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and community volunteer, Kai lived a life marked by love of family, service to others, and boundless energy.

Born and raised near Brunswick, Maryland, she was the daughter of John Sprigg Hedges and Nena Adele Flook Hedges. After attending St. Mary's Seminary Junior College and earning a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maryland, she taught elementary school in Maryland and Connecticut.

Kai met the love of her life, Holt L. Marchant ("Jay"), on a blind date in 1959. They married on July 18, 1964, and shared 61 wonderful years together. Their lives together included residences in Maryland, Connecticut, Illinois, England, and eventually Maryland's Eastern Shore, where they built their dream waterfront home in Queenstown before later settling in Easton.

Throughout her life, Kai pursued many passions, including gardening, photography, skiing, field hockey, running, travel, and community service. She was an active member of Old Wye Church, the Queen Anne's Chorale, the Queen Anne's County Garden Club, and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. A lifelong competitor, she remained active in road races well into her lat-



er years, often winning her age groups.

Above all, Kai cherished her family. She is survived by her devoted husband, Jay; daughters Stephanie Gattuso (Matthew) and Juliet Neal (Jamie); grandchildren Grant, Gavin, Blake, Criostoir (Kirstin), Eleanor, and Connor; brothers Harry Hedges (Gwen) and Chuck Hedges (Betty); and many beloved relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Robert Hedges.

Kai's legacy of love, laughter, determination, and service will continue to inspire all who knew her.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 29, at Old Wye Church in Wye Mills, Maryland. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Wye Parish, 14114 Old Wye Mills Road, PO Box 98, Wye Mills, MD 21679 or Queen Anne's Chorale, PO Box 118, Chester, MD 21619.

For a complete obituary and online condolences, please visit: www.fhnfuneralhome.com