

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND HUMANITY

MARTEL W. MONTGOMERY

JANUARY 15, 1931 - JUNE 3, 2015



CROSSLANDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

1660 East Street Road

Kennett Square, PA

“Amazing Grace”

By John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

OBITUARY

MARTEL WILCHER MONTGOMERY

Martel Lanita Teresa Wilcher Montgomery, homemaker, educational administrator, peace and civil rights activist died suddenly on Wednesday June 3, 2015. She was the wife of David Montgomery, the love of her life, who passed away in 2011 and with whom she shared 59 ½ years of marriage.

Born in Chicago, IL she was the daughter of the late Julius and Lulu Mae (Huff) Wilcher, and grew up in the Princeton Park neighborhood. A Depression era child she learned how to be frugal from her momma (who could stretch a single chicken to feed a family of 10), yet she was quick to lend a helping hand to those in need. There was always an extra place at the table for family and friends.

Education was prized in her family and Martel excelled in school skipping several grades. After graduating from high school at sixteen she went on to attend Roosevelt College. For the entirety of her life had an insatiable thirst to learn making her an avid reader of books and newspapers, a frequent visitor to museums and historical sites, and a full throated debater with friends, colleagues and even strangers on the issues of the day.

She was a remarkable woman, who had many dear friends at the Crosslands retirement community. She loved to travel and entertain forging lasting bonds with people in many countries including England, Belgium, France, Italy and Brazil. Most importantly she was

devoted to her family and loved to be a mentor to young people. Fiercely protective of her own she could always be counted on for any cause looking after the well-being of children.

Mrs. Montgomery is survived by two sons, Claude D. Montgomery (married to Diane) of Stamford, CT and Edward B. Montgomery (married to Kari) of Fulton, MD; two brothers, Ogden Wilcher of Chicago, IL and Harold Wilcher of Chicago, IL; five grandchildren, Douglas, Nicholas, Lindsay, Elizabeth and Edward Julius. She will be sorely missed by her nieces Michelle Fowlkes (John), Shelia Richmond and Debbie Turner; nephews Karl Brown (Sylvia), David Brown, Kenny Wilcher (Lenore), Terry Richmond, Nate Richmond, Stefan Richmond, Darren Tilman, Dionne Tilman, and Gerard Wilcher (Ayanna); and her brother in law Daniel (married to Maria), children Sylvia, Elizabeth and Rob, sister in law Virginia Bailey and children Joan, Carole and Alan.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Reginald Wilcher and Donald Wilcher; three sisters, Patricia Brown, Carol Richmond and Sandra Tillman, and one grandson, Samuel Montgomery.

Her laughter, quick wit, warm smile and loving embrace will be missed.

The family requests donations in the name of Martel Montgomery go to:

Southern Poverty Law Center: www.splcenter.org

or

Doctors Without Borders:
www.doctorswithoutborders.org



I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

Langston Hughes