

## MARGARET BENJAMIN



**M**argaret Benjamin passed away on August 15, 2007 in her home, at the age of 93, after a long illness that robbed her of her memory but not of her gracious spirit. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, she was raised with her sister Roberta in the Junior OUAM National Orphans Home in Tiffin, Ohio, after the deaths of their parents. At the Home, Margaret developed her steely determination and her commitment to helping others, without ever feeling sorry for herself. After graduation, she met Roy ("Ben") Benjamin, one of the few single young men in Cincinnati who had good prospects and was

taller than she was. They married in 1937 and spent the next 53 years together. His work as a research chemist during World War II took them to Philadelphia for the next 45 years where their daughter, Meril was born. Being part of a brand new community in the suburbs brought out Margaret's organizational skills in putting together civic groups while also campaigning for her husband as a crusading Republican activist and, eventually, an officeholder in her own right. For her volunteer work, she was honored at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia in 1968. When Meril went off to college, Margaret started a career in real estate, eventually managing an apartment complex of 300 units. Retirement with Ben took her to Arizona, where she developed a love of the desert and low humidity.

After Ben passed away, she eventually moved to The Woodlands in 1995 to be close to her daughter and son-in-law. Continuing her lifelong commitment to be a part of the community wherever she lived, she was a volunteer at the South County Friendship Center, at Christ Church United Methodist, and with the

Hug-a-Bears craft group at Memorial Hermann Hospital in The Woodlands. Her love of singing led her to be a stalwart member of the Woodlands Sweethearts Performing Group until her 90th birthday when getting around became more difficult. During her last years she was privileged to live at Ultimate Care by God's Servants in Spring and to be surrounded by the Classical Music she loved until the moment she passed from this earth. During her final illness, she and her family were blessed by the ministrations of Lighthouse Hospice's dedicated employees and volunteers.

She is survived by her daughter, Meril, and son-in-law, Michael Markley, who live in Grogan's Mill with their schnoodle, Mischa, who was Margaret's faithful friend to the end of her days.

Margaret's wish was that instead of a funeral, her friends would gather and celebrate her life. This will take place at the Friendship Center in The Woodlands on Friday, August 24 at 11:00 a.m. In place of flowers, her wish was that contributions be made to the donor's favorite charity or to Interfaith of The Woodlands.