



Ellajeon "EJ" Allard Taplin

July 23, 1927 - June 20, 2021

Ellajeon Allard Taplin, 93, a retired real estate agent, former teacher and the widow of a senior Central Intelligence Agency operations officer, died peacefully on June 20, 2021 in Chesterton, IN.

She was born in Phillipsburg, PA on July 23, 1927, an only child. Her father, John Arnold Allard, was a renowned educator in Moon Township, PA where an elementary school is named in his honor; her mother, Florence Kanour Allard, was a teacher and homemaker. Ellajeon, or "EJ" as she was known, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1948.

EJ met her future husband, Winn L. Taplin, in Ann Arbor. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, earned a Ph.D in American History from Michigan and then joined the Central Intelligence Agency as an operations officer in the Clandestine Service. They were happily married for 67 years until Winn's passing in 2016. EJ accompanied Winn on overseas tours to South Vietnam, Romania, Switzerland and Thailand. Bright, friendly and gracious, EJ was an invaluable, albeit informal and uncompensated, partner in his work. While overseas, EJ also taught fourth grade in Saigon and later, while living in Bangkok, she helped process refugees fleeing Communist oppression in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Returning to the U.S., she earned a real estate license and greatly enjoyed remodeling her many homes. Painting was another of EJ's lifelong passions: she won first place awards in art shows in Geneva, Switzerland and Fairfax, VA. After her husband retired in 1982, Ellajeon and Winn relocated to Stowe, VT and then Sarasota, FL. In 2019, EJ moved to Storypoint in Chesterton, IN where she continued to paint, even as her eyesight was failing. She never missed a good party nor a good joke with her many friends and family.

Ellajeon is survived by her daughter, Leslie Taplin Baumann of Valparaiso, IN, and son-in-law Dean; her son, Mark Allard Taplin of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and daughter-in-law Kathy Kavalec; her sister-in-law Claire Taplin of Southbury, CT; her

husband's niece Sandra Leonard; her grandchildren, John Baumann (and wife Melinda Lee), Benjamin Taplin, Samuel Taplin and Gwendolyn Taplin; and great grandchildren Penelope and Logan Baumann. Memorial contributions may be made to the Moon Area Education Foundation, which supports scholarships and educational upgrades at Moon Township Pennsylvania schools, at moonaef.org. Arrangement entrusted to Edmonds & Evans Funeral and Cremation Services. Online condolences to the family may be made at <http://www.ee-fh.com>.

Comments



“ My name is Megan Nimick and I am forwarding the following letter from my father, George "Gus" Nimick..

To: The daughter and son of Ellajean Allard Taplin,

What a surprise it was to see the name "Allard" in the obituary section of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. I am quite sure that Ellajean was one of the piano students of Bessie Ramsey (maiden name - Bessie Hubach) of Ben Avon, PA, at the time when I was having piano lessons from Mrs. Ramsey. We were about the same age and both of us grew up in Moon Township. In those days, I resided in what is now Robin Hill Park.

I remember Ellajean from those days, although I only saw her at one of Miss Hubach's "recitals" (which Miss Hubach called "spasms") in the hubach house where her students performed. If I recall, Ellajean played a two-piano piece (the name of the piece eludes me at the moment) about goblins dancing, among other pieces. Your mother was one of the most skillful of Miss Hubach's students.

I am so sorry to learn that Ellajean has died. I wish I had known she was living not too far away (I live in Sarasota), we might have gotten together for one or two piano duets, if she still played, or shared memories.

Best wished to you and your other family members.
May God bless you fully,
George Guthrie ("Gus") Nimick

P.S. Through this obituary notice, I found your mother was only 4 days older than I!

From Megan - My mother passed away almost two years ago and I think of her everyday. My heart is with you and your family. I must say it was fun to see my father's face as he recounted seeing your mom play the piano and commenting on how pretty she was. They were pretty young as dad said that he only took lessons from Miss Hubach until he was 15. If you wish to contact my dad, you are welcome to email me at megannimick@yahoo.com and I will make sure he gets the message! I hope these memories add a bit of joy to help with the sadness.

Megan Nimick - June 30 at 08:54 PM