



Janet Ferson Green

October 24, 2020

Janet Ferson Green passed-away comfortably and peacefully in her home on October 24, 2020. Professionally, and privately in her hobbies, Janet was competitively active at a time when it was uncommon for women to be so. This came from a strong innate motivation, discipline and persistence to gain self-satisfaction from her accomplishments. Despite her drive, she was not self-promoting and did not seek the spotlight. She had a keen sense of humor, comfortable laugh and twinkled-eyed smile. She was positive and supportive, but pragmatic and unemotional... with notable exceptions for her many animals (mostly long-haired white canines).

She spent her professional career in precision optics manufacturing. The first half was spent with Ferson Optics, a company her father founded and later sold to Bausch & Lomb. She focused on the financial, administrative and IT aspects of the business, although she helped in developing optical coatings early in her career. The second half of her career was spent at PFG Precision Optics, a company she and her husband founded in 1977 together with industry friend John Plummer of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. She was the company's president until her retirement in 1995.

Janet's greatest passion, and for which she was perhaps best known, was as a private pilot. She held instrument, instructors, commercial and airline transport licenses and accumulated well over 3,000 pilot hours. From 1980 – 82 she was president of the Ninety-Nines, an international women's pilot organization in which Amelia Earhart was instrumental in founding. Her involvement in this organization took her around world with its bi-annual conventions, one of which included a meeting with then Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi. Also, during this time she competed in women's air races, known as Powder Puff Derbies. She flew former US Senator Trent Lott during a number of his election campaigns and piloted Federal agents on night flights seeking to identify moonshiners.

She was a decades long member of the Rotary Club of Ocean Springs and its first female president in 1996. She was past president of the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce

and Altrusa of Biloxi. She was Queen of Les Masques in 1950, the Coast women's Mardi Gras association, and held various officer positions as a more than seventy-year member.

Janet's earliest hobby was sailing. Her start came as a pre-teen when her father built a Penguin for her. As a member of the Biloxi Yacht Club she competed for many years, sailing Fishboats and Penguins in club races and regattas, including the Knost Regatta, which as skipper, she won in 1962. She also skippered and won races in the Lipton Cup Regattas. In more recent years she took up ballroom dancing with her husband. They participated in competitions, mostly in the Southeast but also traveled out of the region, placing in many for their age group. Other less competitive and more social activities for her included golf, tennis and years of couples and ladies snow skiing trips to their home in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Janet was born December 19, 1925 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the only child of Frederick Burton Ferson and Mary Swan Ferson. A lifelong resident of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she grew up in Biloxi and resided in Ocean Springs most of her adult life. She graduated from Biloxi High School and attended University of Denver.

She is survived by three offspring - Gayden, Travis (Patricia) and Courtney (Becky) and nine grandchildren.

She was pre-deceased by her husband of 62 years, Don; son, Colin (Terri) and grandson, Owen.

A visitation will be held at the Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Ocean Springs on Tuesday October 27th from 9:30am – 11:00am. Masks will be required.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Humane Society of South Mississippi.

Events

OCT	Visitation	09:30AM - 11:00AM
27	<hr/>	
	Bradford O'Keefe Funeral Home - Ocean Springs	
	911 Porter Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS, US, 39564	

Comments



“ Ron and I are so sorry for the loss of your dear mother. She was always so very sweet and kind. She was a lovely lady!

valri fountain crosby - October 27, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Loved Janet and would like her family to know she will always be in our hearts.

Marlene and Harry Brackett - October 26, 2020 at 08:51 PM



“ Martha O'Connor lit a candle in memory of Janet Ferson Green



Martha O'Connor - October 26, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ My mom, Margie Jones, worked with your parents for many years. I babysat all the Green children...lots of good memories. May God bless your family.

Martha O'Connor - October 27, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ Oh, Gayden, I just heard. My sincere sympathy. One day, may the happy memories outweigh the sorrow of your loss.

Sallie Hogancamp

sallie hogancamp - October 26, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ We met Janet at the gym. She was a remarkable lady and we shared so many thoughts and ideas. She led a very full life. I had the privilege of going on a couple of ski trips with her to Colorado and that feisty little lady could ski like a pro. She accomplished so many things in her lifetime. She was an inspiration to many of us. She will be greatly missed.

Heather Hoffman - October 25, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ We extend our sincere sympathy and value your trust during this time of remembrance and reflection. We pledge our support now and in the future.

The Staff and Management of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes

Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home - October 25, 2020 at 09:41 AM