



Elizabeth "Betsy" Clayes Dillard

April 23, 1924 - January 5, 2026

Elizabeth "Betsy" Clayes Dillard, 101, of Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully of natural causes on January 5, 2026. A beloved mother, grandmother, and cherished friend, Betsy lived her long life with remarkable energy, grace, and an indomitable spirit that touched everyone she knew.

Born on April 23, 1924, in Brookline Massachusetts, Betsy was the daughter of Stanley and Elizabeth Clayes and sister to the late Stanley Arnold Clayes. From an early age, she displayed a love of sport and competition that would define much of her life. An accomplished tennis player, Betsy achieved a United States ranking in the sport and went on to share her passion and skill with others as a teacher and tennis coach.

A proud graduate of Ursinus College, Betsy was the first female officer of Peoples National Bank of Norristown later to become PNC. She earned both a Master of Science in Education (MSed) from Lehigh University and a Master of Arts (MA) from Villanova University in History going to class at night. She subsequently taught high school History and Problems of Democracy classes and inspired students through her commitment to learning and her enthusiasm for life. She brought the same focus and drive to her favorite pastimes—golf, tennis, gardening, and games of every kind. Those who knew Betsy best will remember her spunky personality, non-stop energy, and playful competitiveness that brightened every room she entered.

Betsy was preceded in death by her husband, Robert H. Dillard, her parents, and her brother. She is survived by her son, James M. Brown, daughter, Hope B. Riley, 9 grandchildren and step grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Her family and many friends will forever remember her strength, humor, and fierce love—qualities that made her not only a remarkable woman but, as a mother and grandmother, a true formidable force.

Betsy will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery next to her husband at a future date. Her family invites all who knew her to carry forward her joy for life, love of learning, and enduring zest for friendly competition.