



## Elsie "Joyce" Semenuk

January 29, 1923 - March 27, 2022

Elsie "Joyce" Semenuk, a 72-year resident of Swarthmore, passed away on March 27, 2022, she was 99-years old. Born in 1923 in Bristol, England, 14-year old Joyce was a cost-accountant in Fry's Chocolate Factory before evacuating the German blitz with her family to rural Somerset County in the west of England. Joyce joined the Women's Land Army, first working on a farm for the war effort, and eventually becoming the bookkeeper for an Allied fuel depot where she met a young "Yank" officer from Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania by the name of Andrew Semenuk. Andy went into France with the invasion, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, liberated prison camps in Belgium and Germany, and on a weekend furlough after V-E day, Joyce and Andy were married in England.

Settling in Swarthmore after the war, Joyce became the postmistress of the Swarthmore College post office in Parrish Hall. She was active in many book clubs and local women's groups, as well as the Presbyterian Church where she was a deacon, and started a very long and happy stint at the nursery school where she taught countless classes of "her" 3-year-olds how to tie their shoes, how to say "please" and "thank you," and how to share.

Joyce lost her beloved husband Andy in the summer of 1978, but with the help of sons Geoff and Ritter and many dear friends and neighbors from town, managed to maintain her Drexel Place home until 2018 when she moved to a

nearby nursing home.

Joyce was legally blind due to unfortunate wartime conditions and was never able to drive a car, but she could see well enough to read and to catch the bus to Chester or Upper Darby, or the train to Philadelphia. Loving her independence, Joyce's favored mode of transportation in Swarthmore was her bicycle. She rode helmetless through town, against her family's expressed wishes, and often down the middle of Park Avenue from 1946 until 2004 when her sons finally convinced her to retire her yellow Schwinn.

In addition to her late husband, Joyce was preceded in passing by her father Reginald Bishop, her mother Florence Bishop (who lived to be 100), and her sisters Marge, Pat and Peggy of England. She is survived by her sons Ritter (Richard) of Schwenksville and Geoff of Bryn Mawr, sister Valerie of Western Australia, by her grandsons Andy and Allen, granddaughters Sarah and Sky, and by a great number of great grandchildren, nephews, and nieces. Joyce had countless colleagues and friends in town, and the family wishes to express their gratitude for all the help and love given to, and shared with Joyce through the years.

# Tribute Wall

LH

“Joyce was one of the sweetest & most loving of people. She was quite fondly often referred to by the boys as the "Queen". We all loved her madly.

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Lynn Huebner - April 01, 2022 at 01:16 PM

LH

“1 file added to the album Happy Times



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Lynn Huebner - April 01, 2022 at 01:12 PM