



# Carolyn B. Craske

SEP 17, 1935 - JAN 21, 2016



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## **Carolyn B. Craske**

SEP 17, 1935 - JAN 21, 2016

**C**raske, Carolyn B., 80 of Largo, died Thursday, January 21st 2016 after battling a second occurrence of cancer. She was born September 17th, 1935 in Chicago Heights, IL, graduating from Crete-Monee High School in 1953. She was quite active in swimming and leadership roles throughout high school and worked as a life guard at Lincolnshire Country Club.

She was the daughter of Ralph C. & Grace Jones. She was the oldest of three sisters – survived by Judith Jones of Largo, FL and Susan McCully of Crete, IL.

She attended the University of Illinois, becoming President of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and graduated in 1957 with B.S. in Home Economics / Nutrition. This was the beginning of a lifetime connection to the sorority, serving in leadership roles with various alumnae groups for the rest of her life.

She married W. Don Craske, Jr. D.O. in 1957, eventually settling in Crete, IL, and worked at the Wheat Flour Institute for many years developing recipes and early testing on microwave cooking. She gave birth to two sons: W. Don Craske III, D.O. in May 1959 and Andrew Craske in Feb 1964.

In 1970, the family relocated to Dallas, OR, where her husband set up a general surgery practice and assumed a leadership role at Polk County hospital. Carolyn ran the medical practice and took advantage of the outdoors going snow skiing and camping with the family, as well as bowling, golfing and playing bridge. She attended Dallas United Methodist Church, where she served as youth counselor and in other leadership roles.

The family relocated again in 1978 to Seminole, FL, where Dr. Craske became an investor/owner of University General Hospital. Carolyn continued to run the medical practice and was active with several charitable organizations, joining the choir at Anona United Methodist Church, as well as bowling, golf and playing bridge. After obtaining a Masters of Public Administration in 1988, she was selected to the



## Obituary

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President's Scholar Internship Program, serving a 2 year rotation in Washington D.C. before settling down in Fairfax, VA and taking a position a financial analyst with the Department of Health & Human Services.

She retired from Federal employment in 1997 to move back to Florida to be close to her grandchildren: Alexandria Craske, Samantha Craske & Jamieson Craske. Her retirement was chronicled in a newspaper article on recent federal retirees. You may copy and paste the following link into your internet browser to read the newspaper article.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1998/08/03/a-federal-employee-retires-part-iii/41509e1c-96af-4d40-b6ee-a48eca52639a/>

Back in Florida – she became more involved with Anona UMC, rejoining the choir and becoming a staff member. She continued to participate in various charitable organizations, sorority alumnae groups, became active in the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (N.A.R.F.E) and joined the Red Hat Society. She also continued to bowl, play bridge, play golf and travel. She relished the opportunity to watch her grandchildren grow, participate in school activities and play sports – where she was always in the stands - and provide them much love and wisdom. She was a “die hard” Tampa Bay Rays fan and season ticket holder. She recently celebrated her 80th Birthday with a large group outing to a home game.

Carolyn lived a full and purposeful life. She will be missed for the way she carried herself and set an example for others to follow, her counsel on all things - big or small, the words of encouragement and support, her dedication to her faith, serving others and most of all – being a loving friend, daughter, sister, mother and grandmother.

A “Celebration of Carolyn” will be held Sunday, February 14th from 1pm – 3pm at Anona United Methodist Church, 13233 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL 33774. All are invited to come share with the family in remembrance.

In lieu of flowers – the family is requesting donations be made in Carolyn's name at any of the following: the Anona UMC Choir (727) 595-2581; the Anona UMC Prayer Quilt Program (727) 595-2581; or the Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation (813) 623-4703.





## Events


**Carolyn B. Craske**

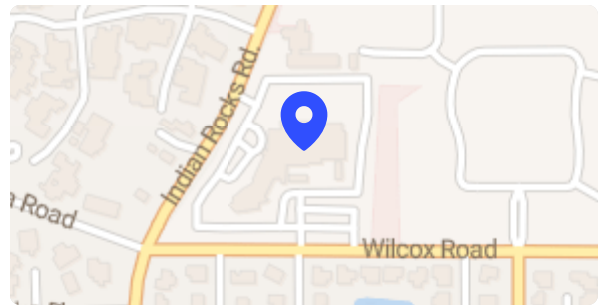
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### Celebration of Life

 **Sunday**, February 14, 2016

 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 **Anona United Methodist Church**  
13233 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo FL 33774





## Tribute Wall

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JF

**Joni Funk** posted:

My heart hurts at this great loss, not only to the Craske family(Love you Don & Christie) but for all those lives that Carolyn touched. Carolyn was my youth counselor at church throughout my teenage years. Because of all she conveyed in those years she was and continues to be a role model for all I could hope to be. She was "all in" when she was involved with something and because of that the results were always good. She was genuine, loving, kind, intelligent, and wise. She holds a place within my heart...ALWAYS!

February 10 at 2:24 PM

BB

**Bunny B.** sent a sympathy card to the Craske family.



February 10 at 7:23 AM

BB

**Bunny Bitner** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn's family at this time. I met Carolyn around 2004 when she became a Red Hatter. Our group had the name of "Better Red Than Dead" and we enjoyed each others company until about 2012. Carolyn was a faithful member who enjoyed all the activities and restaurants for lunch. I was blessed to have known her. In sympathy, Bunny Bitner

February 10 at 6:10 AM

JM

**Janet Marvin** posted:

My heartfelt sadness to Carolyn's family with her passing. I knew Carolyn through our Clearwater DDD Alumnae and her kindness will always be remembered. She was so dedicated to our group as she was to her family and her many other interests. I feel blessed to have been friends with Carolyn during the last few years. Fondly, Janet Marvin

February 4 at 3:41 AM

SY

**Shirley Battermann Younker** posted:

I graduated h.s. with Carolyn. Our class stayed close, having many reunions. Most of which Carolyn attended. The Class of '53 seemed to have a special bond. So proud to read of all her accomplishments in life. She enjoyed it I imagine to the fullest. RIP, Carolyn. Shirley Battermann Younker

January 29 at 5:27 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Ron And Linda Nelson** lit a candle in honor of Carolyn.

To the Craske Family, Please accept our sympathies and prayers for the passing of your mother. Mother's are so special in our life. The Ron Nelson Family

January 28 at 3:00 PM



**Jim Ray** posted:

Andy I am so sorry for your loss. I lost my mom 2 years ago so I understand. I'm sure she is singing with Jesus right now. God Bless

January 28 at 7:25 AM



**Miracle Castellano** lit a candle in honor of Carolyn.

Our condolences, our prayers are with the Craske family. Rocco and Miracle Castellano

January 27 at 1:14 PM



**Judith Jones** posted:

Carolyn's nickname from childhood was "Queen Bee" but it was said with love and affection. Will miss my sister but she is now an Angel in th Choir in Heaven

January 27 at 6:56 AM



**Memorial Park Funeral Home** shared an album called **Carolyn B. Craske.**

January 27 at 5:43 AM





# Media

**Carolyn B. Craske**  
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**Memorial Park Funeral Home** shared 13 photos to the **Carolyn B. Craske** album.

January 27 at 5:43 AM



**Andy** January 27 at 1:41 PM  
The Jones Sisters!! Carolyn, Susan & Judy...



# Media

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# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Carolyn by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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