

Tina Beukenkamp

1915 - 2018



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Tina Beukenkamp, a 38-year resident of Shalimar, FL passed peacefully in the presence of family on September 8, 2018, at the age of 103.

Jantina Etty was born to Jan and Alida Mensinga on January 28, 1915 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. An accomplished athlete, Tina participated in women's crew and competitive ice skating in her youth. Her motto, "motion is lotion," kept her physically active, participating in water aerobics into her mid-90's. Her academic studies led to certification as a teacher, and her intellectual pursuits were life-long, evidenced by well-informed opinions on current events and lively discussions of the latest literature with her monthly book club.

On March 18, 1939, Tina married Dr. Radboud "Bob" Laurens Beukenkamp, PhD., an aspiring agronomist. Their 54-year journey together commenced with a honeymoon in Austria, driving through pre-war Germany on the back of a motorcycle.

The newlyweds' world was soon plunged into darkness, as Europe was engulfed by World War II and the Netherlands were invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany. The ensuing war years brought times of joy, as Tina and Bob celebrated the births of their first three children, along with harrowing times of oppression, deprivation, and hunger. They were active in 'The Resistance' (the organized underground force fighting the Nazis.) These life stories are legendary among family and friends. Tina's trademark iron will, strong mettle, and ingenuity were forged in those years.

The post-war years of the late '40s and early '50s found Tina and family living overseas, as Bob was posted first to Buenos Aires, Argentina in diplomatic service to the Netherlands, and later to Washington, D.C., where their fourth child was born. Bob subsequently entered the private sector and the family moved to Lisbon, Portugal. In the mid '50s, Tina, Bob, and the children returned to Washington, D.C., eventually becoming U.S. citizens.

Bob's business pursuits next took the globetrotting family to Geneva, Switzerland and Mexico City. In the mid '60s, they again returned to Washington, D.C., when Bob reentered government service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Residencies in D.C. were interspersed with diplomatic postings to Rome, Italy and Brasilia, Brazil. Each destination brought with it another language to learn and new friendships that lasted a lifetime.

After living in New Orleans for several years, Tina and Bob retired to Shalimar in 1981. Devout parishioners of St. Simon's on the Sound, they travelled far and near proclaiming love of Christ as leaders of the Disciples of Christ movement, and Tina served on the Vestry at the young age of 100.

Tina's zest for life and insatiable curiosity were undiminished by Bob's passing in 1993. A multi-lingual citizen of the world, she loved engaging with fellow humans in all their cultures and ethnicities and continued to travel, visiting Indonesia, Iceland, Scotland, Scandinavia, S. America, Alaska, and Russia, among other places.

Tina was particularly devoted to her 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, all of whom shared a special and very personal bond with "Oma Tina". She is survived by her children, Alida Codel, Jackie Gahan, Erik Beukenkamp and Felix Beukenkamp.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at St. Simons on the Sound Episcopal Church, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Simon's Episcopal Church, 28 Miracle Strip Pkwy SW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

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3 entries

October 6, 2018



Tina's wit, compassion, and tenacity will forever be etched in my heart. I'll think of her with every book I finish (for the book club she led), with every soup I make (for that's the secret to living long, she told me), for every kind act I deliver to others (for she always encouraged me in saying how proud she was of my drive to magnify hope), and with zeal for life (as she was so grateful to God for hers). I'll miss running into her at Publix

grocery store. She would stop in aisle, touch my cheeks, and ask, How are you?! How's your handsome husband Chuck?! And the children, Loren?! And Derek? She held my family as precious, and she remains so to us. I can only imagine the glory she now knows. One day, we will see you again! Till then, her love will remain in the fabric of our lives.

Maryann & Chuck Makekau

September 21, 2018

So sad to hear of your mothers passing Felix and family. She was an admirable lady who blessed many hearts in her lifetime. I know she is at peace and touching the face of God. Many prayers and blessings to your family.

Anita Root

September 21, 2018

A great light has gone from this world. It was my blessing to have known you!

Judith Marshall

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