



## Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke

February 7, 1934 - February 14, 2019

Marlene Eskeli Duke

Marlene E. Duke was born on February 7, 1934 in Oriska, North Dakota to Axel and Dorothy Tougas Eskeli. She was baptized on April 10, 1938 in St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Oriska, ND. Her Godparents were her Grandparents Arthur and Melvina Tougas. She passed away at 85 years old on February 14, 2019.

Marlene moved to Oregon with her family in 1938. In 1948 they moved again, this time to St. Ignatius, Montana. Marlene attended seven different high schools and graduated in 1952 from Chehalis High, Chehalis, Washington. She moved to Portland, Oregon, went to work for Minneapolis Honeywell and attended business school at night. In February 1954 she joined the U. S. Air Force. After basic training she attended Personnel Specialist training at Scott Air Force Base in Columbia, Illinois. She was then assigned to the 3241 Test Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. This, Marlene said, was the best move of her life as this is where she met the love of her life, John Duke of Albany, Georgia. Marlene and John married 5 months after meeting, on St. Patrick's Day, 1957. Marlene said they had great years together, six children, fourteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Instead of a honeymoon, John and Marlene purchased a boat and had a boat of their lives together. As the family grew, they eventually bought a pontoon boat that carried 15 passengers - great for the Flint River and weekend

outings with the grands.

Marlene and John also were members of the U.S. Power Squadron. The squadron taught safe boating courses at Darton for a number of years.

Marlene was commander of the squadron in 2000.

In 1962 they made another move, this time to Albany, Georgia. Marlene went to work as benefits administrator for Merck, Inc. She retired after 29 years.

Much time was spent volunteering. She volunteered for 11 years with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. Other agencies she volunteered with were American Red Cross, Hospice of Albany, Birthright of Albany, and St. Clare's Soup Kitchen. She was a member of the Albany Chorale prior to her illness. Marlene was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Darwin and Kurt Eskeli both of Albany, Oregon, her husband, John, and a grandson, Guy Tanner.

Survivors include two daughters: Tamie Hunt (Randy) of Newton, GA, Kathy Boyd (Mike) of Canton, GA; four sons: Chip and Mike Duke of Albany, Greg Duke (Jan) of Athens and Leesburg, GA, and Kurt Duke (Chrysanne) of Powder Springs, GA; fourteen grandchildren: Misti Hendrickson of Arlington, GA, Ricky Hunt (Mary) of Iron City, GA, Meghan Duke of West Point, GA, Dylan Duke (Rita) of Columbia, IL, Adair Duke of Chamblee, GA, Colby Duke of Tucker, GA, Landon Duke of High Point, NC, Brittany Duke of Leesburg, GA, Logan Duke of Mitchell County, Kyle Tanner of Albany, GA, Blair Tanner of Canton, GA, Jacob and Regan Duke of Powder Springs, GA; eleven great-grandchildren: Tyler and Emma Hendrickson of Arlington, GA, Sophie and Owen Hunt of Iron City, GA, Keaton Moss and Kambree Weekley of Leesburg, GA, Tinsley Tanner and Kylee Tanner of Canton, GA, Leilyn Tanner of Chesapeake, VA., Savannah and James Duke of Columbia, IL; two sisters: Sharon Ludlow of New York City, NY and Judy Lakin (Bob) of Key West, FL; sister-in-law: Janice Duke Garvey (Mike) of Jasper, GA; numerous nieces and nephews

Marlene has donated her body to the Medical College of Georgia for science.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00AM on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Father Ray Levreault officiating. Visitation will be held Friday, February 15, 2019 at Kimbrell-Stern from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

Those desiring may make donations to St. Clare's Soup Kitchen, 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., Albany, GA 31701 or Albany Humane Society, 1705 Oakridge Dr, Albany, GA 31707.

To share your thoughts with the Duke family, you may visit our website at [www.kimbrellstern.com](http://www.kimbrellstern.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Memorial Service

FEB **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Teresa's Catholic Church  
421 Edgewood Ln  
Albany, GA 31707-3910  
(229) 439-2302

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. She was a wonderful, caring woman, who befriended my Mother when she first moved to Albany. I will always be grateful for strong sweet spirit.*

*Milli Sample*

**Milli Sample** - March 05, 2019 at 06:12 PM

CI

“ Dear Duke Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Marlene's passing. She was a caring, loving and giving person whose candle burned out way before her memory ever will. Words cannot comfort your grieving hearts. Please know others share your pain and grief. We pray that God will wrap His arms around you and give you the peace and comfort you need at this time and the days ahead. I will always cherish those fun days at Phoebe where she volunteered and the love she showered me with.

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**Cathy Ivey** - February 19, 2019 at 01:29 PM

LP

“ Lamar Potts lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke



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**Lamar Potts** - February 17, 2019 at 04:40 PM

RT

“ Such a beautiful woman. Memories of my days at Dougherty High School are wonderful, and John and Marlene played a major part in those memories. She was always so gracious.

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**Rosalyn Thomas** - February 17, 2019 at 11:10 AM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.



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February 15, 2019 at 01:59 PM

DB

“ *Debbie Banks purchased the Simply Elegant Spathephyllum for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.*



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**Debbie Banks** - February 15, 2019 at 12:24 PM




“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.*



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February 15, 2019 at 11:32 AM

 Dani  
Tippins

“ *Greg , Jan and family so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. May your memories surround your hearts as you say goodbye for now. Soon will be joined as Jesus deems the time and place of our redemption!*

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**Dani Tippins** - February 15, 2019 at 10:55 AM

EH

*From the Eloise Hall family we sends their deepest condolences. I worked with her at Merck from 1969 until her retirement. Please know that you all are in our prayers.*

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**Eloise Hall** - February 15, 2019 at 05:59 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.



February 15, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.



February 15, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marlene Eskeli Duke.



February 14, 2019 at 08:08 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Duke. My thoughts and prayers are with all of her children and grandchildren. I will always remember this sweet lady so full of life and showing love along the way. I bet she and Mr. Duke are having a wonderful homecoming together.*



**Cynthia Suit** - February 14, 2019 at 08:04 PM

“ Momma Duke was an absolute tower of strength and I was blessed to see it up close and personal during my formative years. (especially during summer break.) One said summer, an older child who could drive in her magnificent brood of six, did a McDonalds lunch run and we neighborhood kiddos put in our orders and monies as well. Upon surveying our junk food feast at it's arrival, we realized ketchup would have to be rationed and there was a frenzy for those little white packets containing the tomatoey goodness. Reaching in for the last packet In the bottom of the bag I found myself in a one on one tug of war battle with one of the older boys, he won, well sort of... Upon prying it from my fisted hand a ketchup explosion squirted red goo straight into the air using the white ceiling above as it's canvas. We all froze, then scrambled to get the color off Momma Duke's ceiling before she came home to check on us, it was her habit to stop by during her lunch break. We tried so hard to erase the evidence, but merely succeeded in creating a disgusting mixture of red, pink and ceiling stipple mud. It was in the middle of our frantic cleaning we heard the back door open and her footsteps clicking through the kitchen towards the den. After the reveal of our latest, “Masterpiece” , we children gave a loud explanation of details and blame , as we debated ,she stood tall and silent. ( I contended I was not holding the packet during the eruption.) Then... calmly with her eye brows raised, she slowly thanked me ahead of time, for giving up my Saturday to paint her ceiling with my accomplice in the Ketchup Crime . She continued by asking myself and her son to get the money to Mr.Duke to pay for the paint supplies, adding it would take a pretty good bit of paint to paint the entire living room ceiling... because spot painting would be an eyesore. As you may assume we complied, but I've hardly ever opened one of those packets without a tiny smile. I loved and respected this precious lady to a degree I can not express in mere words. She was amazing, I have used the skills she taught me, over and over With my four children. I especially loved her taking the time to teach me to make Redeye gravy. Marlene Duke invested in my life and I am a stronger more compassionate and understanding because of it. Thank you Momma Duke I am eternally grateful! With

*much love Dy-Anne Morris Bodiford*

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**Dy-Anne Bodiford** - February 14, 2019 at 05:25 PM

LC

“*Dear Duke Family . . . My sincere condolences to you. I haven't seen Miss Marlene in several years, but I have fond childhood memories of her. Prayers for your comfort in the weeks ahead.*

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**Lucia Welsh Coker** - February 14, 2019 at 04:57 PM

JH

*My thoughts and prayers are for Marlene's Family! She was my late husband  
Jack's secretary and she and John were Good Friends! God bless her  
and Rest In Peace! Love Joan Hoffman*

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**joan Hoffman** - February 14, 2019 at 08:53 PM

AD

*I met Marlene in October, 1975, when I came to Albany to work with John Pierson. In that capacity, Marlene supported both of us. We could always depend on her to keep us posted with current information and take steps necessary to serve all plant employees, always pleasant and gracious. Our relationship continued after our job roles changed both at work and through church.  
My thoughts and sincere condolences go out to all her family. May she rest in peace now.  
Ace Darden*

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**Ace Darden** - February 14, 2019 at 10:04 PM

DW

*May our Lord bless and comfort you and your family during this time of grief. Please accept our sincere condolences.  
Dwain and Janet Weaver*

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**DWAIN AND JANET WEAVER** - February 15, 2019 at 11:27 AM