



Judith Merck Koltak

December 12, 1940 - February 11, 2016

Judith Merck Koltak, wife of the late Thomas Koltak, passed away February 11, 2016 at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She was 75.

Judy was born in Morgantown, West Virginia to the late Louis and Teresa Merck. She graduated from St. Francis Catholic High School and received her BA from West Virginia University. She and Tom raised their family in Pittsburgh before moving to North Litchfield to enjoy the beach and the lack of Northern winters.

Judy was a member of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. She was a devoted Steelers fan and a rabid reader whose Kindle account was almost impossible to navigate because it was so full. Before her retirement, she was employed by Dunes Beach Home Rentals, where she enjoyed introducing Litchfield and Pawleys Island to many vacationers. She also welcomed countless nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and friends to the area.

For the last ten years, Judy fought a stubborn battle with cancer, and the family would like to thank the many doctors, nurses, aides, technicians, and volunteers at MUSC and at home who took care of her with love and dignity and compassion.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Louise Merck Vest of Las Cruces, New Mexico. She is survived by her children, Melissa Koltak Hayes of Atlanta, Georgia and Brad Koltak of Silver Spring, Maryland; and their families, including son-in-law, Donald Hayes, Jr.; grandsons Tyler, Luke, and Connor Hayes; and daughter-in-law, Kim Young.

A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church in Pawley's Island. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105