



Ms. Leona Capeless

September 17, 1922 - September 29, 2021

Leona Capeless of Lenox passed away on September 29th, having celebrated her 99th birthday just over a week before.

The daughter of Matthew and Katherine (Fitzgerald) Capeless of Pittsfield, she was predeceased by her parents, her siblings - Mary, Robert, Kathleen and Matthew, Jr., all of Pittsfield - a nephew, Robert, Jr. of Becket and a niece, Katherine Donahue of Burlington, Vt.

For many years a resident of Manhattan's Upper East Side, Leona had lived the past four years at Kimball Farms in Lenox.

Leona was described by one colleague as the "legendary" managing editor at Oxford University Press in New York, and by another as "a white-bunned, belle-of-Amherst type who smelled like roses and could make [the equally-legendary editor Sheldon Mayer] sputter and look at his feet." Known for her wit, sharp sense of humor, and broad range of knowledge, Leona was a much sought-after cocktail party invitee, guaranteed to enliven any conversation. Her active and varied social life, from hobnobbing with the literati to carousing with members of the New York Rangers, was the source of a seemingly endless stream of anecdotes that regaled and astonished her niece and nephews, and their spouses and children. Her passing leaves us all wondering what tales we hadn't yet heard.

Leona is survived by her sister-in-law, Alice (Blau) of Pittsfield; a niece, Victile Donahue of Pittsfield; six nephews - Mark, of Charlotte, VT; Stephen of Pittsfield; David of West Stockbridge; Christopher of Tallahassee, FL; Matthew, III of Pittsfield; and Edward of Adams - sixteen grand nieces and nephews, and seventeen great grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral Notice:

There will be no calling hours. Friends and admirers are encouraged to meet with the family before and after the funeral at St. Charles Church in Pittsfield, to be held on Saturday, October 23rd, at 10:00 am.

Events

OCT **Service** 10:00AM

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St. Charles Church

89 Briggs Ave., Pittsfield, MA, US, 01201