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Obituaries

Grayce K. Barck

(March 7, 1927 - March 1, 2010)

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Grayce K. Barck, age 82, of New Smyrna Beach, died Monday, March 1 at the Southeast Volusia Care Center of Hospice of Volusia/Flagler,. Born in Hoboken, New Jersey, Grayce was orphaned as a girl; her mother died in childbirth and her father died when she was eight years old. Subsequently, she was raised by an aunt in Rocky Face, Georgia.



After graduation from Dalton (Georgia) High School, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, where she was later awarded as an outstanding alumna. She also did graduate work at the University of Florida and the University of Maine. Her teaching career began in Tampa, where she taught science and physical education. In 1950, Grayce moved to New Smyrna Beach to teach at New Smyrna Beach Senior High School on Live Oak Street, where along with teaching physical education and science, she became the first female driver education teacher in Florida. During this time, she lived with Hannah Bonnet, the first female mayor of New Smyrna Beach, and a person Grayce considered to be her second mother.

In 1956, Grayce went to Europe to teach in Department of Defense schools for two years in Germany and five years in Italy at Camp Darby on the Italian Riviera. It was then that she met an Army Veterinarian, 1st Lieutenant John Barck. In 1965, Grayce came back to New Smyrna Beach and taught at both Read-Pattillo Elementary School and at New Smyrna Beach Junior High School. In 1970, she and Jack were married. Jack's military career took them to posts in the United States, Korea, the Middle East, and again Europe, including a fabulous four-year tour in Heidelberg, Germany, where she participated in the Wives Club activities and had a weekly radio program as "Alice Kaputt" on the Armed Forces Network

In 1992, Jack retired and they returned to New Smyrna Beach, where Grayce became active in politics, beginning as president of the North Beach Neighborhood Association. She ran for New Smyrna Beach City Commissioner, to be defeated by only thirty votes. Later, however, she was appointed as Volusia County Representative to the Florida Inland Navigational District and was able to bring considerable funds into this area for various projects.

Grayce is survived by her husband of 40 years, Col. John Barck, D.V.M., U. S. Army (Retired); two nieces and one nephew in Georgia; and several great-nieces and nephews.

A service to celebrate Grayce's life will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 5, at the Settle-Wilder New Smyrna Beach Chapel.

Memorial donations may be made in Mrs. Barck's memory to New Smyrna Beach CAPS Inc., P.O. Box 1808, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170

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