



Leah A. Dukes

September 28, 1924 - July 28, 2018

Leah Dukes, known as Le-Ann Swiger when she was young, was a singer and musician, executive secretary, restaurant co-owner, realtor, square dancer, Airstream caravan-er, volunteer, and Avon representative. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, great grandmother, and friend. But more than all, she was a maker of homes. As the bride of Jim Roe Dukes, an Army Air Corps pilot in WWII, she lived in D'Hanis, Texas; Dodge City, Kansas; Shreveport, Louisiana; Florence, South Carolina. Following the war, she and Jim lived in Akron, Ohio; LaGrange, Georgia; Chardon, Ohio; Willoughby, Ohio; Sarasota, Florida; and most recently, Lake Orion, Michigan. In all of those homes, there was gathering, food, and welcome. Leah's roots were in West Virginia, where both her mother and father were born. Family was paramount to both Jim and Leah. Their children--Marilyn, Craig, Larry, and Nancy, and their families--were at the heart of celebrations and reunions over the years. Those gatherings required travel--to Virginia, Michigan, North Carolina, and beyond--travel that never deterred Jim and Leah. Even greater than her love of family and her commitment to friends, Leah loved the Lord. As a youth, she and her family were active members of the First Evangelical United Brethren Church in Akron, Ohio. Her subsequent church families included the Pilgrim Christian Church (Congregational), Chardon, Ohio; Willoughby Hills Methodist Church, Willoughby Hills, Ohio; and Trinity United Methodist Church, Sarasota, Florida. Leah died peacefully in her new home in Lake Orion, Michigan, surrounded by family and by McLaren Hospice,

following a hospital stay. She is survived by three of her four children, eight grandchildren, and nine plus great grandchildren. Leah's burial will be at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Rd 72, Sarasota, Florida, at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, August 3, 2018 (arrival time 10 a.m.) Her memorial service will be on Sunday, August 5, 2018, at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4150 South Shade Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34231, with a reception prior to the service, beginning at 11:45 a.m. Leah's family would celebrate donations in her name to Trinity United Methodist Church, a faith home for Jim and Leah, a place of encouragement and comfort and growth.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Barbara D. & Shari R. lit a candle in memory of Leah A. Dukes*



Barbara D. & Shari R. - September 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Our mother, Juanita Haddock, and Mrs Dukes were lifelong friends, having met in Akron, Ohio. Mom passed away in 2/17. We are sure Mom and Mrs. Dukes are "catching up" in heaven now! Barbara D. & Shari R.*

Barbara D. & Shari R. - September 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Shari R. and Barbara D. lit a candle in memory of Leah A. Dukes*



Shari R. and Barbara D. - September 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Barbara D. & Shari R. lit a candle in memory of Leah A. Dukes*



Barbara D. & Shari R. - September 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM