



Janet Flaccus

December 31, 1949 - March 3, 2020

Janet Flaccus, age 70, of Fayetteville, died Tuesday, March 3, 2020. She was born December 31, 1949 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the daughter of George Edward Flaccus Jr. and Helen Stulen Flaccus. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother Robert Flaccus.

She was a law professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville from 1984-2018.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Bruce Dixon; a sister Louise Flaccus Reese and her husband David E. Reese of Glenbrook, Nevada, and a brother George Edward Flaccus III of Belmont, North Carolina, and his daughter, Sydney Rose Flaccus of Wichita Falls, Texas. Janet is also survived by her nephew Rhett Reese and Rhett's wife Chelsey Reese the their son, David Edward Reese, of Century City, California, her nephew Caleb Reese of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Janet's niece Robyn Cardamone and Robyn's husband Richard Cardamone of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and their sons, Aidan and Logan Cardamone.

Janet grew up in the Pittsburgh area and then followed in the steps of her aunt Caroline Flaccus and sister Louise and graduated from Wheaton College in Norton MA in 1971. She spent her junior year as a member of the first coed students to attend Dartmouth College. She earned her masters in history and then became a law student at the University of California at Davis, where she graduated first in her class in 1978. She spent five years in private, civil practice at Phebus, Tummelson, Bryan and Knox in Urbana IL. She earned her LL.M at the University of Illinois Law School in 1985.

In 1984 Janet became an assistant professor of law at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She broke another gender barrier by becoming the first, female, full professor of law in 1994, 70 years after the establishment of the Law School in 1924. Janet taught "black-letter law"—contracts, sales and leasing, bankruptcy, negotiable paper, etc. and later in her career, domestic relations. She published in a number of law reviews and the practitioner oriented Law Notes which she edited for a number of years. She was recognized multiple times as Best in Continuing Legal Education by the Arkansas Bar Association. Her favorite part of being a law professor was being able to interact with

students and help them shape their careers.

Janet enjoyed tennis, golf, 44 years of running with her husband on Sunday mornings, musical theater and symphony. But her passion in life was ornamental gardening. For the first year of the America-in-Bloom competition in Fayetteville, Janet's gardens won first place. She also did the floral landscaping of the Richard B. Atkinson Memorial Courtyard. Her proof of the existence of God was that only a divine power could create something as beautiful as flowers in bloom.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Memorials may be made to The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, 2700 Horizon Drive, Suite 120, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Comments



“ Janet has been my much-valued friend and colleague for over forty years. As a colleague, she made thoughtful, principled judgments and had the backbone to follow them through. As a friend, I have found her to be enduringly cheerful and kind. In fact, my husband and I owe her millions of dollars in lost bets playing golf with her and Bruce. Despite her expertise in collection law, she made no effort to collect. And finally, she has been a beloved teacher. Although Janet was intimidatingly smart, her charm, good humor, and self-deprecating comments endeared her to generations of our law students. We all will miss her.

Professor Mary Beth Matthews

Mary Beth Matthews - March 28 at 09:55 AM



“ My husband, Raymond ('84), and I knew Professor Flaccus from law school. She was always very professional and one of our favorite professors. She will be missed.

Carolyn Boyles - March 23 at 09:11 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to Bruce and to Janet's extended family! Janet was a delightful and much valued faculty colleague!
Prof. Donald B. Pedersen - retired

Donald Pedersen - March 18 at 05:28 PM



“ Janet and I were gardening buddies for 25 years, spending loads of time working side by side in her beautiful flower beds in all kinds of weather. She loved her Harlan Brown soil and enriched it yearly with 900 pounds of cottonseed hull top dressing. No weed was too small to be pulled and no spent bloom allowed to stay past it's prime, allowing new blooms to continually emerge. Known as The Flower Lady by everyone in her neighborhood, Janet was always glad to pause in her work to talk about flowers and graciously accept the many compliments received from walkers and cars stopping to admire her design talents and the abundant beauty of her skilled hands. Pinks, purples and blues were her favorite bloom colors. Not only did she win the first America in Bloom Fayetteville residential prize, she declined to enter in subsequent years so that others could experience the pleasure of winning it too. This attitude personified Janet. She was kind, funny, smart, sensible and loyal. My friendship with her made me a better person and I will miss her always.

Marcy Benham - March 13 at 03:34 PM



“ I am a classmate of Janet's from Wheaton and am just so sad about this. I grew up in Arkansas but my life was the reversal of Janet's. I came sight unseen to Wheaton and then made my home in New England for the past 50 years. Janet came to Arkansas after I had left and we never had a chance to reconnect here. While I did not know her well in college, it's clear she lived a full and accomplished life here in Fayetteville. I was privileged to see her a couple of times towards the end and talk with her about Wheaton, assuring her we are all proud of her and will never forget her. Condolences to Bruce and the entire family. Rest in Peace, dear Janet!

Susan Wilson - March 13 at 11:19 AM



“ Such fond memories of Professor Flaccus. Gifted and amazingly smart lawyer. Deepest sympathies to her family.

Brett McDaniel (Class of 02)

Brett McDaniel - March 11 at 06:03 PM