
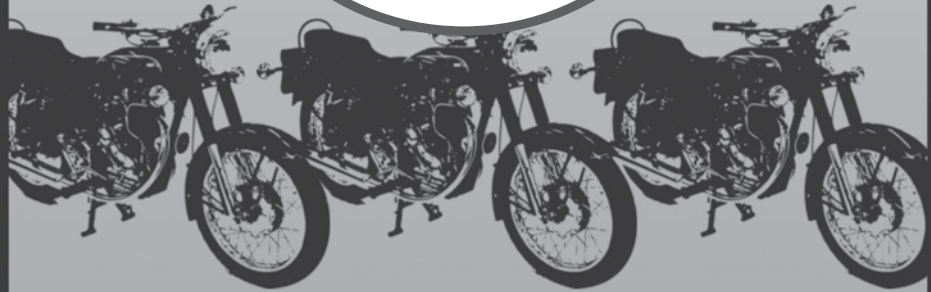


Key Largo Club House Post 333



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NJ Marinaro
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Remembering Kay Thacker

Long-standing community leader and good friend to many, Kay Thacker passed away in late February after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a strong woman, smart and gutsy, and she will be greatly missed for all she did and all she gave.

Born in 1945 in Pikeville, KY, Kay moved to Indiana in 1950, and raised her family in Greenwood, IN. She had been coming to the Keys since 1965 and moved to Key Largo permanently in 1989.

Kay's parents were Gene and Carolyn Damron, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, John Groothand, her sons, Tim Thacker, of Jacksonville, FL and Todd Thacker, of Lake Mary, FL and her daughters-in-law Carrie and Danielle, her half brothers, Gene Damron and Gary Hunt, and her half sister Nancy Taylor. She had 7 grandchildren: Sarah, Jacob and Cole Ponder, Emma, Kylie, Mathew and Elizabeth Thacker.

Kay had a passion for Key Largo and Monroe Co., and was very involved in the inner workings of the local government while being a frequent contributor to the editorial section of our local papers. She spoke truth to officials as she saw it, she spoke on behalf of many residents.

Kay was the President of Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center, VP of External Affairs for Island of Key Largo Federation of Home-

owners, and Secretary of Sexton Cove Property Owners Association. In her time in Greenwood, Indiana she was instrumental in founding and maintaining the Center Grove Little League and Center Grove Bantam Football League where she served for several years as Treasurer.

After earning her degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Indianapolis she became the Vice President of Sales with Metal Honing, Inc. Upon arrival in Key Largo, she worked as a beautician at the Ocean Reef Club and later at the Key Largo Anglers Club. She owned her own beauty salon, Casa de Kay, in the late 1960s and early 70s.

Kay was a "ray of sunshine," a loving wife, mother, grandmother, a great friend to many, and a great advocate for keeping the Keys beautiful! In lieu of flowers please make donations to VNA/Hospice of the Florida Keys.

The family thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers over these last six years as Kay battled cancer. A celebration of life was held on Feb. 27 at the Murray Nelson Center.

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MARC thanks Paul and Magda at The Coconut Cove Resort, Centennial Bank, Winn-Dixie, the Sheriff's Department and Vic's Auto Tech for their generous donations towards the Spring Fling.

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The Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens is a non-profit agency that serves adult clients within Monroe County who have developmental disabilities that include intellectual disabilities (I.Q. 69 or below), cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Prader-Willi Syndrome, and traumatic brain injury sustained prior to age 18. MARC provides numerous services for their clients. These services are designed to insure that each client receives training and support that enhances his or her individual abilities to understand daily community routines and learn social, self-care, vocational skills and help to increase a client's ability to develop friendships with non-disabled persons. MARC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization providing life services for Monroe County residents with Developmental Disabilities. *A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.