



## Anne Piepenbrink

February 3, 1922 - May 17, 2024

Anne Piepenbrink passed on May 17th 2024 after a short illness at age 102. Many have said she was the most remarkable person they personally met. At age 12 she suffered an eye injury while playing with friends that became infected and soon led to total blindness. Rather than take the road of self pity, she took a high road; very high to dedicate her time both professionally as a social worker and personally to all who were blessed to know her. It was rare in the 1930s and 40s for women to pursue college educations. She completed her bachelors degree at Mary Baldwin College in her hometown of Staunton Virginia with her mother reading all the assignments so she could type answers and essays. Anne wanted to help other handicapped people so she completed the graduate courses at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to become a certified Social Worker. She hired a driver to take her to the rural homes of the handicapped to teach them braille and other skills to become successful in life. Anne later moved to downtown Chicago ,and taught at the Illinois School for the Blind. She met and married Harold Piepenbrink and had two sons, John and Jim. The family began a lifelong love of boating and waterskiing on a boat named The JJ. That recreation has persisted for everyone in three more generations inspired by Anne blindly waterskiing into her 70s. The family moved to the grounds of Manteno State Hospital in 1955 where she raised the family until they were old enough for her to go back to work there as a social worker until the hospital closed and she retired. Anne was always an inspiration to others. Her shoulders have always been strong

and wet from the leaning and crying they gladly endured from others seeking her support. Her last gift was to donate her body to medical science. It is not just her 102 year old body to be studied but her soul provides an even more remarkable study.

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ You don't come across people as Inspirational as Mrs. Pipenbrink in this World very often !!! My Mother always spoke Highly of Her during the State Hospital days, 👍...

Mike Marshall - May 25, 2024 at 03:47 PM

CB

“ John, Sue and family  
What a remarkable mother you had! It seems even tho she had a disability, she never let it stop her! So sorry for your loss.

Cindy and Pezer

Cindy, Bill Beutien - May 24, 2024 at 03:36 PM

CI

“ Cindy lit a candle in memory of Anne Piepenbrink



Cindy - May 23, 2024 at 05:48 PM

MC

“ She was truly remarkable! The differences she's made in so many people's lives is such a blessing! Such a beautiful heart and soul!



Martha Cook - May 22, 2024 at 10:50 PM

BA

“ Miss Anne was such a joy to be around. She never complained and always had something good to say. I spent a year and a half cooking and serving her in the dining room and when I would make a mistake, she would be so gracious. She fed my soul just by being in her presence. A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of visiting with her Miss Anne, I will miss you and your sweet spirit.  
Barbara Anthony.

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**Barbara Anthony** - May 22, 2024 at 07:53 PM

GH

“ i was Anne’s evening CNA. We will miss you so very much! you are loved by everyone at Bourbonnais Grove. rest in peace ❤️🙏

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**Grace Huenerberg** - May 22, 2024 at 03:00 PM

MH

“ Anne graciously and humorously helped me learn to play the role of a blind girl in the play Wait Until Dark. She was amazing and we had such a great time together. She always remembered my voice when I would see her in later years. Such a lovely person! ❤️

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**Marsha Hill** - May 22, 2024 at 01:04 PM

AK

“ Miss Anne would always be so open to telling us her story. I remember walks from her room to the dining room. How much we laughed and spoke about many things. She was one amazing person and forever will she be in my heart.

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**Ashleigh Koster** - May 21, 2024 at 02:15 PM

LB

“ I only knew Anne for a short time, working at Bourbonnais Grove in the culinary department. She was always pleasant and kind to me. On Sunday mornings she enjoyed her 'Sunday treat' of an omelette with sausage, mushrooms and black olives. She will be greatly missed.

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**Laura Banasiak-Wilkerson** - May 21, 2024 at 02:00 PM

HV

“ I , we, have know Ann since 1958 . She rode to work with my wife for years . one day going to work the car slipped off the roadway a bit and Ann said ,  
" Pat, did you want me to drive ?" .. she was a character ..She always impressed the Schwans man on how she recognized money by feel , Son delivered her daily paper. we had a special knock .We lived across the street for years .. Interesting lady, even recall the day she tore apart and repaired her carpet cleaner .. We were in Order Of Eastern Star together ..She always amazed all who knew her ..we did not notice she was blind .. Cathy , I, son Terry were glad to have " grown" up with her in Manteno .

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**Henry T Vinson** - May 21, 2024 at 08:52 AM

PJ

*Sending my thoughts and prayers to your family. She lived a remarkable life.*  
*Pam Johnson*

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**Pamela Johnson** - May 21, 2024 at 09:43 PM

AN

*God Bless Anne! She was such an inspiration to me when I worked where she lived. My deepest condolences.*

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**Angie Nowak** - May 22, 2024 at 12:10 PM

AL

“ Ann was a remarkable lady who shared her warm personality with everyone. She was a longtime member of Manteno Woman’s Club and I remember a meeting where a local bakery taught us how to use pastry bags to decorate cupcakes with icing. Ann participated and made the most beautiful treats! She loved life and she shared much joy with those of us who were blessed to know her. Rest in Peace, Ann!❤️

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**Annette LaMore** - May 20, 2024 at 11:28 PM

CH

“ Anne was such a wonderful and giving person. It was a privilege to know her. Please accept my sincere prayers to your family. 🙏

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**Cheryl Hammond** - May 20, 2024 at 09:43 PM