

Marilyn Aitken

Former Resident Pays it Forward for the Future of Others

The Presbyterian Homes Foundation is pleased to share that former resident and River Landing at Sandy Ridge Society member, Marilyn Aitken, has honored her community through a legacy gift that will provide resources for residents for years to come. Through her gift of over \$170,000, Mrs. Aitken has shown her care and concern for friends and neighbors at River Landing, who are in need of resident financial assistance. Her generosity has helped to bolster the endowment that provides assistance to residents who, through no fault of their own, have run short on resources and need assistance from the Foundation.

Ian and Marilyn Aitken moved to River Landing in 2012. Ian says that the golf course factored into their decision as Marilyn was an avid golfer and encouraged Ian to also take up the sport by providing him with golf lessons one year as a Birthday gift. "I had to learn to play or I would be sitting at home," Ian shares with a laugh!



Marilyn was born August 3, 1932 and grew up in Eastpointe, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. She and Ian met through their work in the data processing department at GE Carbology. Ian remembers this as a time of great evolution in the company as their work was moving from punch cards and other manual tracking mechanisms to a more computerized way of doing business. Seco purchased GE Carbology in 1987, becoming Seco-Carbology and later Seco Tools, Inc.

In addition to golf, Marilyn had many interests outside of her professional work including music. Marilyn was highly involved in the life of her church playing the piano and organ and leading two choirs for children. Ian recalls that her faith and being a part of the Lutheran Church was something that Marilyn enjoyed a great deal.

Although Marilyn never had any children of her own, her marriage to Ian in 1985 provided a full family life, as Ian had raised seven children with his first wife, who had passed away after battling Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). Marilyn joined the Aitken family just as grandchildren were born and would eventually be "Grandma Marilyn" to 5 grandchildren.

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After retiring, Ian and Marilyn moved to Whispering Pines, NC where Marilyn had more time to enjoy her hobbies such as golf, birdwatching, collecting intricate Swarovski crystal figurines and travel. Marilyn was a tremendous conversationalist, and she treasured her times with friends. She and Ian enjoyed traveling to Scotland (Ian is a native of Scotland), Germany, Italy, the Panama Canal, Aruba and other destinations. Sometimes they travelled in groups, while other times the two of them would plan their own adventure. While living in Whispering Pines, the couple attended a luncheon where they learned about River Landing.

Ian, who recently turned 100, reports that the two enjoyed their good neighborhood and close friends while in their cottage on Niblick Court. He remembers Marilyn, who passed away January 7, 2021, as friendly and good natured, sharing that he cannot recall the two of them ever having a serious disagreement. When asked about Marilyn's gift to River Landing, Ian shares that he believes Marilyn provided this gift because she appreciated living at River Landing and the care and attention she received.

Tom Smith, Executive Director of River Landing, shares: "We are deeply honored by this very generous gift from a very special resident. Mrs. Aitken's generosity will continue to carry out the love and care she showed to so many while a resident here at River Landing. We are appreciative of her thoughtfulness that will continue to have an impact within the community."

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RIVER LANDING AT SANDY RIDGE?

Current and future gifts to The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. can be earmarked to support River Landing in a way that reflects your philanthropic goals and priorities. If you would like to discuss the possibility of including The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. and River Landing in your planning, please contact Marisa Ray, Director of Development at (336) 886.6553 ext. 5118 or mray@presbyhomesinc.org.

You may also wish to visit presbyhomesinc.mylegacygift.org for additional information and to view stories that highlight recent estate gifts received by the Foundation. Those who have made provisions to include the Foundation and River Landing in their estate plans are invited to join the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Society.