



Susanna Buie Matthews

MAR 29, 1940 - MAY 1, 2024



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Susanna Buie Matthews

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Susanna Buie Matthews died on May 1, 2024 in Tallahassee, Florida. She was 84 years old. Born in Karachi, Pakistan (British India), she returned with her parents to America prior to the outbreak of World War II. The family settled in Columbia, South Carolina and after the war moved to Tallahassee, Florida in 1956 when her father accepted a position at FSU with The Geology Department. She was a member of Saint John's Episcopal Church (she was married there in 1959). As a teenager she worked at The Leon County Library on Monroe Street. She attended Leon High School. She was in the Leon High Choir and a proud member of the Melodears ensemble group.

After graduating from Leon in 1957, Susanna accepted a scholarship to Vassar College in New York State. In 1959 she married John Sanford Matthews and moved to Tampa, Florida (living on Davis Island). She graduated with honors in the charter class of The University of South Florida in 1963. While in Tampa she was a member of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, worked as a high school teacher at Blake High School and was an active volunteer with the March of Dimes, Florida League of Woman Voters, Florida Democratic Party along with many other charities and civic groups.

In 1970 Susanna entered the doctoral program in The Department of Government at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, receiving her Masters degree in political science and completing all but the dissertation. She moved to Mankato, Minnesota in 1972 to teach in the State university system. While working to complete her dissertation in Comparative Politics over the summer of 1973, Susanna was offered a position in the Reubin Askew administration as Housing Administrator with the Governor's Housing Goals Council.

After her son, John, Jr. graduated from Leon High School in 1978, Susanna moved to Hartford, Connecticut working with state government in a variety of capacities and returned to Tallahassee in 1981. She reconnected with St. Johns. She worked for The State of Florida with Governor Bob



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Graham and The Department of Florida Housing and Urban Development. Susanna was appointed to the State of Florida Board of Acupuncture by Governor Graham. Susanna was also a Certified Financial Planner and accredited volunteer with The Internal Revenue Service providing community, free of charge help for low to moderate-income families needing assistance.

Ms. Matthews is survived by her only son John Sanford Matthews, Jr., her sisters Margret Buie Keppie (Nova Scotia, Canada) and Julia Buie Steinitz (Salzburg, Austria) along with many loved cousins, nieces and nephews (Aunt Susie). She was preceded in death by her parents Dr. B. F. Buie and Susanna Pierce Buie and her sister Carolyn Buie Erdener. There will be no public funeral. Ms. Matthews remains will be privately interred.



Tribute Wall

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Michelle lit a candle in honor of Susanna.

I met Susanna back in 2019 and she was truly a strong, inspirational woman who I'll always carry in my heart. I will always cherish her gift, The Blue Sea Cookbook. For years I've kept it on my main cookbook holder. I intend on keeping there for years following. I really do miss you Susanna, you certainly did light up this world.



January 28 at 8:34 PM



Eleanor Byron And Eleana lit a candle in honor of Susanna.



May 5 at 1:07 PM



Dan posted:

Ms. Matthews stood up for me when few others would. Many times she gave me the a place in this community and that inspired me to live up to her expectations and give back as much as possible. I admire her and will continue to follow her example of responsible politics and faith in humanity.

May 1 at 2:09 PM



Eleanor Marie May 5 at 12:34 PM

Compelled To Speak Straight from My Heart. My Dear Friend & Mentor Susanna Buie Matthews.A BLESSED Gift & Impact Upon MyChildren. Loved her Church,A Loving Mother, Brilliant CPA & Community Activist.A Forever Impact Upon Our Lives.Susanna's Kindhearted,Life giving,People building SPIRIT Will be in Our Hearts Forever.Heaven's Gain Our loss.IN JESUS OUR BLESSED SAVIOUR 'S NAME.AMEN.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Susanna by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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