

In Loving Memory of Mary Margaret Read
May 30, 1926 – September 12, 2009



Mary Margaret (Tillery) Read, born in Oklahoma City, OK on May 30, 1926, died on September 12, 2009, in Palo Alto, CA.

She is survived by her husband, John L. Read, Jr.; her sons and daughters-in-law, J. Leighton Read, III and Carol of Palo Alto, CA, and Timothy Thomas Read and Lee of Roswell, GA; her five grandchildren, Travis and Haley Read of Palo Alto, CA, Katie Read of Charlottesville, VA, and James and Leighton Read of Roswell, GA; her sister Jean Swirczynski of Casper, WY; other loving family and countless dear friends. She was preceded in death by her second son, James Andrew Read (1954-1978) and her father and mother, James Cooper Tillery and Mary Frances Nagle Tillery.

She was a graduate of Central High School (Tulsa, OK) and earned her B.A. in liberal arts at the University of Oklahoma. She was married to John L. Read of Norman, OK for 61 happy years. Following their marriage in 1948, Mary Margaret and John lived in Palo Alto, CA while John earned his master's degree in geology at Stanford University. She was then a resident of Tyler, TX for 17 years where she made many friends and gave birth to three sons, Leighton, James and Tim, each of whom she helped to become an Eagle Scout.

Mary Margaret and family moved from Tyler to Houston, TX in 1967, where they enjoyed twenty-five happy years of friendships and joy. She and John began another adventure when they moved to Santa Fe, NM in 1992. Their latest move was a return to Palo Alto, CA in 2005. As Mary Margaret began her final journey, passing peacefully from this life to more life, she was surrounded by her family and the caring staff of the Skilled Nursing Center of the Classic Residence by Hyatt of Palo, CA.

Mary Margaret was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, PEO, the Junior League, and countless other service groups. A member of various congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she was a teacher, staff youth director and church officer.

Enormously creative, she built two dream houses – one in Tyler and one in Santa Fe. She was an accomplished artist in oils, watercolors, pastels and other media. She played tennis with passion and enjoyed an occasional game of golf. In all things, her greatest joy was having fun with people.

Mary Margaret will be remembered for her brilliant smile, sunny personality, clever wit, and loving care for others. In every way, she sparkled.

She was remembered in a Service of Witness to the Resurrection at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, CA on September 14, 2009, and her life will be celebrated again at a later date at an interment service in Houston, TX.

For those so inclined, the family recommends that memorial contributions be made to The University of Oklahoma Foundation, Inc., Kappa Kappa Gamma Scholarship Fund, 100 E. Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73072.