

## Obituary Page

### HOFFMAN, ELIZABETH "BETTY"

Hoffman Elizabeth, "Betty," 105, of Ventnor died peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on Monday, Nov. 16. Betty was born to Frank and Frederika Lichty in Lancaster, Pa., in 1904, and later taught dance with Adele Astaire. She moved to Atlantic City shortly before the crash of 1929 to work at Bell Telephone Company as a switchboard operator. When rotary phones came into use, she was promoted to supervisor.

In 1938 she met and married Benjamin Hoffman and in 1945 they opened the TK9 nightclub on Tennessee and Arctic Avenues, Atlantic City, where she was wardrobe mistress. After the club closed in 1948, the couple opened Ben's Liquor on Monmouth and Sacramento Avenues, Ventnor, where they worked side-by-side. Betty and Ben sold the store in the 1960s and while Ben worked in the Atlantic County Clerk's office, Betty devoted the rest of her life to charity work. She was president of the Elks Ladies Auxiliary and active in Temple Emeth Shalom's sisterhood, Betty Bacharach, Children's Seashore Home, RNS, Gilda's Club and in 2006

was honored for her years of service volunteering in the gift shop at Shore Memorial Hospital.

Predeceased by her husband, Ben, she leaves behind sisters-in-law Terri Hoffman, Voorhees and Kay Hoffman, Louisville, Colo.; Godchildren Steven Twain, Burtonsville, Md.; Sandra Batten, Irmo, S.C. and Susan Schwartz, Potomac, Md., children of Rita and the late Gary Twain, Rockville, Md.; nieces and nephews, Harriet Twain, New Haven, Conn.; Joel Hoffman, Las Vegas, Nev.; Penny (Allan) Bilofsky, Cherry Hill; Bruce (Andrea) Hoffman, Cherry Hill; Bunny (Arnold) Katz, Bryn Mawr, Pa.; Wynn (Douglas) Waggoner, Boulder, Colo.; Sherry Hoffman, Margate; Judy (Michael) Hoffman, Har-Even, Jerusalem, Israel, many other great and great-great nieces, nephews, her companion Rosemary Fowler and many close friends.

Graveside services were held Nov. 20, at Emeth Shalom Cemetery, in Egg Harbor Township. Donations may be made in Betty's memory to the charity of one's choice. Arrangements were by ROTH-GOLDSTEINS' MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Atlantic City.

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## ▲ Dimensions

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The new law declared this area off limits to oil and natural gas development. Critics said this was counter productive to reaching national energy independence.

• **June 22, 2009.** The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act gave the FDA power to regulate tobacco products. Since the 1990's, the Food and Drug Administration and Congressional allies have been seeking authority to regulate tobacco. The sight of the tobacco industry executives raising their right hands to swear before Congress that tobacco is not addictive is etched in the national memory. Republican opponents to the FDA regulating tobacco have argued that tobacco is neither a food nor a drug and it is not an illegal substance. However, the majority in Congress set aside these objections and gave the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products to make them safer. The testimony over the years has included evidence that tobacco companies have large scale promotions to attract teenage smokers with specific flavors and other inducements in their advertising. This law was a major breakthrough for consumer protection and health care advocates who have been warning of the deadly connection of smoking to lung and throat cancer for decades.

• **October 28, 2009.** The Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act expanded federal hate-crimes laws to cover gender and sexual orientation. It is eleven years since the slaying of the two men and it took 14 votes in Congress to pass the law. Matthew Shepard was a 21-year-old gay man beaten and left to die, tied to a split-rail fence on the Wyoming range land. James Byrd was a 49-year-old black man beaten by three white men, chained by his ankles to a pick up truck and dragged along the roads to his death in Texas. The law gives the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute, and to pre-empt local police when too little has been done about the hate-crime.

The \$680 billion Defense Authorization Bill signed into law in late October, 2009, cut back or cancelled billions of dollars in weapons systems that were either redundant, outdated, performing poorly or exceeding the military's requests. Production of the Air Force's F-22 stealth fighter jets has been under attack for years. It was designed for combat against the former Soviet Union and has not been used in Iraq or Afghanistan. President Bush had tried to end the program and failed after Lockheed Martin put plants in dozens of states to secure votes of members of Congress. F-22 jets will be cancelled after 187 aircraft in production are completed. The VH-71 presidential helicopters were cut as were the C-17 transport planes since the military planners say they have enough to meet current and future needs. The airborne laser, a favorite of missile defense advocates, will not be produced since it is not suited to fighting the counterinsurgencies of today's warfare. President Obama and Defense Secretary Gates made a strong case for ending all these programs. The president also ended the no-bid contract system that was a part of defense weapons procurement. He signed bi-partisan legislation to improve how weapons are bought. The sweetheart deals that gave billions to Halliburton and its subsidiaries in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will become a thing of the past.

The laws enacted since January 20 will bring change into different important areas of our lives. That change may be viewed as positive or negative depending on where one is on the political spectrum. Newt Gingrich, the former Republican Speaker of the House, reflects the conservative view that, "The left knows what it wants. It's been trying to get it for some time, and this is its moment." Rob Nabors, the White House deputy budget director, sees the changes as progressive when he calls the new laws "a very, very quiet but important victory."

Joyce S. Anderson is the author of "Courage in High Heels," "Flaw in the Tapestry," "If Winter Comes" and "The Mermaids Singing." She can be reached at JSAWrite@aol.com.



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