

**Marian Eggerton  
1933 - 2022**



It is with great sadness we share that Marian Eggerton passed on Friday, March 11, 2022 after a sudden decline in health. Born in Chicago, Illinois, she was 88 years old. Mrs. Eggerton contributed generously of her time and talents to promote the progress of Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital and Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc (MHSF). She served on the MHSF Board from 1983 to 2020 including 11 years as Chairman.

**Full Obituary:**

Marian Eggerton's debut came in a Chicago blizzard on March 25, 1933, joyfully welcomed by mother Bernice Dorothy Umbach (Chicago), father Earnest Fisher Luttrell (Knoxville) and only brother Donald (deceased). At age six months, Marian became critically ill with a benign liver cyst. She had major surgery twice before the age of two. This was before the common use of antibiotics. Her beloved surgeon, Dr. Albert Montgomery (nurses will remember a dressing technique called 'montgomery straps') at Children's Memorial Hospital (Lurie Children's Hospital), and her mother's antiseptic care at home literally saved her life! Her case study was later published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in the early 1940s. With the support of her family, by age five she was thriving, active and a charmer! When she was 12, the family moved to Tennessee and then to New Orleans. She matured into the open-faced, bright eyed beauty that in teen years made her both popular in her all-girls McDonough High School as well as with all the young men in her Gentilly neighborhood, near the Verbena Street bakery. She entered Charity School of Nursing in 1952, only to be 'swept off her feet' a little over a year later by her handsome suitor, Bob Eggerton (deceased), who asked for her hand in marriage. He was completing a Masters Degree in Geology at LSU when they married September 19, 1953. Moving to Midland, Texas in September 1954, with their newborn son Chip, Marian began an active leadership role in the local Methodist Church. Her daughter April Leigh (deceased), was born in Midland. Transferred to Durango, Colorado and then back to New Orleans, Marian and her husband raised their two children to young adulthood in Gentilly Woods and on the Lakefront. Marian contributed her gifts-enthusiastic leadership, passion and her natural love of people- to both Lake Vista United Methodist Church as well as to First Church in Slidell. She was engaged at all levels in the women's ministry of service and missions, as well as on district and state wide levels. Everyone loved her. She was a bright, uplifting and empowering presence! When Methodist

Hospital opened in Eastern New Orleans, Mom soon became a Board member and later was voted Chairman of the Board-a volunteer position. After the sale of the Hospital just prior to Hurricane Katrina, she continued for many years as Chairman of the Board of the Methodist Health System Foundation in Slidell. The Women of the Church, the Hospital, and later, the Methodist Health System Charitable Foundation were her heart, joy and passion for many years. Everyone who worked with and knew her was graced by her upbeat, outgoing, joyous, generous personality. Marian was brilliant, had a photographic memory and genius level IQ. Her passion for excellence and service was contagious. Her sharp mind helped to bring focus and clarity in meetings. In her private and personal life, her artistic eye and love of all things beautiful and her natural ability to decorate, work with color, patterns and textures-pulling it all together-made every home the family shared a showcase of beauty, color, warmth and sophistication. She and Bob loved to entertain and there was always a warm welcome and a drink, to anyone stopping by, as well as the numerous friends that were brought home by her two children. Marian shared with Bob a great love of people and, although both were in 'high level positions', everyone was welcomed, included, and enjoyed as equals. She and Bob both shared a lifelong love of wildlife: birds of all kinds, squirrels, raccoons never when hungry in their yard! In Florida, she kept up with several live eagle and panda webcams, often checking on them throughout the day and night on her phone, feeling a heart connection to all creatures. Thanks to Eric, she also became a tennis fan, vigorously cheering on her favorite players. She lived the golden rule of her faith, rejecting dogma and embracing everyone she met with joy. Marian was an excellent cook, loved sewing, reading, writing, painting, decorating and entertaining. She was a 'dresser', and often wore her signature neck scarf accent. She was smart, funny, loving, kind, competent, committed, fiercely loyal to friends and community. After Bob's passing in 2005 and her daughter April's death in 2010, she continued to reside at her home in Slidell, Louisiana, active in the Women of the Church, cherishing many dear friends and neighbors, as well as long time friends/associates of the Methodist Health System Foundation. After a fall and stroke at home in 2018 led to a pivotal life change, she chose to accept the offer of her son and his partner, Eric, to come live with them in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. She graciously made four moves as together they found the 'right place' for home together. She enjoyed many of their friends, who loved her dearly-though she missed her Slidell friends and neighbors, her church women and life-long friends scattered around the country. She took it upon herself to learn at age 83 to master an iPhone and loved to text, send and receive pictures and call her friends. This gave her a sense of freedom and connection that her significant loss of vision had taken away. She had another stroke at home after a lovely lunch while taking a nap, the week before Thanksgiving 2021. She was hospitalized for a week, sent to inpatient rehab at a skilled nursing facility, Life Care of Sarasota, after which she transitioned to long term care there. A month and a half later, she entered hospice care after a sudden decline in health. She passed peacefully and gently around 9 pm on March 11, 2022, just two weeks shy of her 89th birthday. There are no formal services planned. Her ashes will be scattered at a later date in the Gulf of Mexico with flowers. Please gather with family, friends, and loved ones wherever you live. Share a meal at home or dine out. Speak her name aloud-"Marian". Raise a glass of Pinot Grigio (her favorite libation) or sweet tea-or whatever, and celebrate her memory in joy, laughter, fellowship, love, and many hugs. Make a gift or donation or give of your time, in a way that is meaningful to you, and feel her spirit of service and generosity! Marian is flying high with the angels, looking down on us all in freedom and joy, with great love! She wants you to be happy! Bon Voyage! I love you always! Thanks for being my Mom! Chip