



Katherine Dress

June 22, 1941 - March 20, 2019

Nee Chin Chang Han, on June 22, 1941 in China and when the revolution came with Mao, in 1948, the family escaped as refugees and traveled to the Philippines, to Germany, to Switzerland and to Egypt. Kathy's Father was a doctor and therefore found employment in all these various countries while determining where they wanted to settle. Because he had met Emperor Hailie Salasie, while in Egypt, they were offered asylum in Ethiopia in 1958, where her Father became the Emperor's private physician, while her Mother established a restaurant which became quite popular throughout the African nations. Kathy attended a Finishing for Design School in Switzerland, where interesting contacts were made, which started her on a busy career. Because by now she spoke several languages, Chinese Mandarin, English, French and German, she obtained a job with CBS as an international journalist for Africa and traveled throughout the continent, meeting the executives of their governments. She also was hired by Trans World Airways (TWA) as a reporter, which became her transport to all African northern country capitals. In the meanwhile, the parents had decided the children needed a U.S. education and came to the U.S. where Kathy attended Wesleyan College for girls and obtained a Masters in Design, and when her parents obtained U.S. citizenship it provided naturalization to both children. She met and married her first husband, Mr. Chang, with whom she had her son, John Peter, who succumbed to a heart attack in 2016. The marriage did not last and she was divorced and remarried, only to divorce again in 2000. Once she resided in the Washington DC area, Kathy found a position as special assistant to the Assistant Administrator for MBDA at the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. From there she joined the Peace Corps, being appointed Country Director and was sent to Cameroon for two years. Upon her return, President George H. W. Bush appointed her Deputy Assistant Director at the Dept. of the Interior. Upon her leaving the DoI, she was hired by FEMA as Director for Minority Affairs, after which she was invited to Dallas in 2000 to become the Director of Minority Business at DART. When the RIF came through, Kathy enjoyed becoming a partner with Henry Yiu at Pacific Dynasty International Group as VP for Marketing. She is survived by her brother, living in Canada, Theodore (Ted) C. Han and several other relatives both in the U.S. and China. Kathy passed on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 @ 11:35 am May the Good Lord give her peace! No services are planned.