



In Loving Memory of  
*Jean R. Moeves*  
May 30, 1928 - April 16, 2023

Jean Ruth Moeves was a petite, perfectly coiffed, strong-willed little lady. She had strong opinions about most things and was always happy to share them. She was the original tell it like it is woman and people were attracted to her spirited personality. Truly a social butterfly, Jean liked nothing more than a great party. She never met a stranger and was a genuinely skillful deposer. She lived a long, full life and touched the hearts of all she knew along the way.



Jean was born on May 30, 1928, to Grace and Clarence "Buck" Vastine in their Ludlow, KY home. Soon the home was filled with siblings: Clarence "Fiddler", Thomas, Martha, Mary Jane, Denny, and Barbara. Buck was a contractor who was a skilled carpenter and craftsman. During these years of the Great Depression times were hard and jobs were few and far between. Buck would wallpaper a whole room for \$2 and that money was used to put food on the table. In

those days, they were poor but didn't know it. Others in the neighborhood were in the same boat.

Jean used to share the story about receiving a quarter to buy bread for the family. On the way to the store, she lost the quarter, and the family went hungry that night. That event made a huge impression on Jean. Throughout her life she cherished her belongings and took great pride in and care of them. Buck also took a job in Roosevelt's WPA program to provide for the family. As the Depression was winding down, the 1937 flood hit and what belongings the family had floated out the windows; the family had to take a boat out of their home.



Jean enjoyed playing in the neighborhood and attending the local church each Sunday. She enjoyed the programs for children, but really was there for the free candy they would give her each week. Buck began to build houses for others but when he went to collect, he could be a softy, which meant his family went without. Regardless of the family finances, each Christmas the children would be decked out in new clothes from “skin out!”

Jean attended Ludlow Elementary and Ludlow High School. She loved school but really enjoyed the social opportunities and formed close friendships with her classmates. She was a cheerleader and very involved in all school activities. In the 7th grade she met a cute, Louis “Mousey” Moeves. She asked him to the Sadie Hawkins dance then never left his side. She

followed him to all his sporting activities and was his biggest fan. The young couple would hang out at the local chili parlor after school. They particularly enjoyed attending the local canteen dances where the pair could really cut a rug! They loved to jitterbug and would often hop on the Island Queen to go dance at Moonlight Gardens.



Jean worked as a counter girl at Mills Restaurant and Liggett’s Drugstore during high school to earn extra money that would provide for some basic needs. She graduated in 1946. Jean began working at Gibson Greeting Card while Lou was serving as a paratrooper during World War II. Love letters were written to keep the spark alive and upon his return home they were married at Ludlow Methodist Church on November 20, 1948.



The newlyweds moved to an attic apartment in Newport, KY and Lou began working at Western Southern Life Insurance Company. In 1952, they welcomed their first daughter Margaret "Margie" who was named after Lou's sister who had died at the age of 13. Margie was the center of attention and the couple's pride and joy. Lou's parents were overjoyed with their granddaughter and doted on her. When Lou was recalled to military service for the Korean War, his parents were happy to have Jean and Margie move in with them.

While Lou was away, Fred, Lou's brother, taught Jean to drive. Lou was extremely proud of his automobiles and took great pride in keeping them immaculate. One day Jean and Alice decided to go for a ride. When they returned home Jean scraped the side of the car as she pulled into the small garage. Alice told her to, "Pull out and let me see," but, unfortunately, Jean hit the car again as she pulled out. Upon returning home from the war, Lou was happy to see his wife but furious about his beloved vehicle!

Jean and Lou bought a house on Coral Drive in Hebron, Kentucky. It was small but provided a neighborhood with children and room to explore the outdoors. In 1957, the couple welcomed another daughter, Marsha. Three years later the doctor came from the delivery room and asked Lou if he had enough dresses because they had another daughter. Michele was born to complete the family.



Jean was the consummate housewife and homemaker. She kept an immaculate home and prided herself on her housekeeping. She was a meat and potatoes cook who could whip up delicious meals which were promptly served when Lou returned home from work. She would load the kids in the car and follow Lou to all his sporting events. Jean was active in the neighborhood and close friends with the Michels who owned a large farm next to the house. The Moeves' were actively involved in Hebron Lutheran Church and believed strongly in treating others as you wanted to be treated.

In 1960, the family moved to Villa Drive in Villa Hills, KY. The new house adjoined a large farm that provided fresh vegetables, fruits, and eggs in the summer. There were 3 ponds directly behind the house where the children could ice skate during the winter. The neighborhood provided a close-knit community of friends for the children and a group of mothers that supported each other as they parented. The neighborhood was safe. Jean would often encourage the girls to go play and come back at dinnertime. The Wright family lived next store and had 9 children of their own, so the Moeves girls would hang out there because the extra friends were always welcome and never noticed.





Jean was active in the neighborhood card club where the women would gather once a month to smoke, drink and laugh. The phone became a lifeline for Jean, and she would spend time each day talking to all her friends. This continued throughout her life; as she grew older, she would call her daughters each day. "Marsha this is your mother" (like she wouldn't be recognized). "I was just wondering..."

Jean was one of the few mothers that drove from her neighborhood, so she provided frequent transportation for children. She was constantly taking the girls to cheerleading and Colonelette practice. She drove the children to Girl Scouts and church events. She shopped with the girls and made sure they always had what they needed; each Easter and Christmas the girls got brand new outfits. She became a fierce warrior when her children were wronged; she thought nothing of marching up to school to have a conversation.

Each year the family would vacation in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Jean and Lou were always surrounded by friends and family and loved the atmosphere it created. During holidays, the couple would open their home and provide the party place for others. Jean enjoyed being the life of the

party. She liked her wine and if Lou wanted to leave before 11pm, he would be called a "deadass"!





Jean had a colorful vocabulary and wasn't afraid to use it. However, her speech was often unfiltered and frequently shocked onlookers. That was part of her charm. She was authentic.

Jean took pride in her appearance and always made the effort to look her best. She looked polished head to toe and enjoyed being complimented on her outfits. Jean remained trim and petite her whole life. She kept her clothes and in later years a few vintage dresses provided dance dresses for the granddaughters. Jean was extremely frugal and could pinch pennies. Lou would give her grocery money and from that she would sometimes siphon money and stash it under the dresser, just in case she ever needed some extra cash. She was the queen of coupon clipping and thought nothing of traveling to several different stores for their weekly specials.

Jean loved nothing more than to sit up at night to work on her crossword puzzles with a soft drink and chips close at hand. When the girls began to date, Jean engaged in a game to see if she could outlast their date so they would go home before that final kiss! She also was an avid Scrabble player and took great joy in beating her smart, educated daughters. Sometimes there would be an argument about a word and sure enough, it would be in the dictionary!



After Lou retired, the couple enjoyed traveling with friends and were always happy to join the family on their latest adventure. They traveled to Italy, France, Ireland, Mexico, Alaska, and Michigan. They purchased a small condo at St. Petersburg Beach and relished their time there each year from January to April. While in Florida, they enjoyed horse racing and golf.



As the girls married and moved out, Jean and Lou downsized to a condo at Fort Wright Trace. They loved the convenience and the neighbors who became like extended family. The condo provided an easier lifestyle and the freedom to come and go at a moment's notice. If Fred and Rose, Lou's brother, called they were ready to meet them anytime for a quick dinner or card game. In later years, Jean's brother Fiddler and Ruth, as well as Martha and Darrell, joined them on a three-week van trip out west.



Jean loved to golf and would jump at every opportunity to play. She didn't hit the ball far, but she hit it straight. She would beat others just by being consistent. When they joined Ryland Lakes Country Club, they became active in the couples' golf league and the frequent cocktail parties. They cherished the friendships they made at the club.





Jean was a wonderful grandmother but believed she had raised her kids, and told her girls, "Now you raise yours." She was happy to provide advice freely and loved to spend time with them. As the grandchildren, Matthew, Michael, Meredith, Mavis, Chad, Paige, Louis, Annie and Andy got older she provided much humor and love in each of their lives. They learned to joke with her and knew exactly what she liked. She was overjoyed to hold great grandchildren: Dominic, Christian, Eliza, Reid, Sophia, Phoebe, Alanna, Rylan, Althea and Faye.



Jean remained as active as she was able and hated having to slow down. She remained optimistic that if she worked hard, she would get better. Lou lovingly cared for her as signs of aging appeared. When the girls insisted on getting their parents extra help, Lou and Jean strongly resisted. Luckily, Suz Robrooks provided the friendship and devoted care Jean needed. She grew to love Suz and Suz grew to appreciate Jean's sarcastic comments. Jean and Lou continued to participate in life as best they could. They went to

church each week and even survived the Covid epidemic. Jean hated all the frequent doctor's appointments, but they provided a chance for her to get out. Jean always left most appointments with the comment, "They don't know what the S\*\*t they are doing!" Another strong opinion.

Recently, Lou had a health scare and Jean was petrified. She often wondered, "How is this all going to end?" She and Lou were devoted to each other and each rallied to support the other as best they could. Neither wanted to leave their partner of so many years stranded. When Lou died suddenly on March 21, 2023, Jean was devastated. She had wanted to go first and now she was alone. She told her girls she was ready and did not want to live any longer. "Don't grieve for me, I am ready!"

God was merciful to Jean. Jean was taken home to join Lou in eternity on April 16, 2023.

Jean Moeves will be remembered as a little lady with a big personality. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who loved fully. She leaves a huge void in the lives of all who loved her. She will be greatly missed.

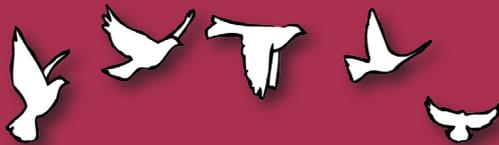
*Story written by  
Marsha Linnemann*





*“To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die.”  
- Thomas Campbell*





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