



# Margaret M Southard

SEP 21, 1952 - DEC 10, 2015



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 6



## **Margaret M Southard**

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**M**argaret (Peggy) Mary Southard passed away early in the morning on December 10, 2015 after a very short and difficult battle with lung cancer. She was 63 years old and is survived by her two sons, Joseph Segars (wife Sara) and John Segars (wife Joenly) and five granddaughters, Casey, Shania, Chloe, Zaily, and Lily; brother Duke Southard(Barbara); sister, Patricia Murphy, Regina Morgan(Chris) and Rory Southard(Kathy).

Peggy, a free spirit, was born on September 21, 1952 and grew up in a small conservative South New Jersey town. If you knew Peggy, you know that she was far from conservative, in every sense of the word. When Peggy graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic High School, she leapt into the flower child-hippie lifestyle of freedom and bra burning.

Soon, she married the leader of the pack (motorcycle pack, that is) and moved to a large farm in rural New Jersey. You may know that Peggy was an animal lover, but did you know that during that time she owned horses and loved to ride? Peggy's free spirit eventually became restless and she left the confines of the cold weather and farm behind for warm water and sunny skies of Florida. This is where she discovered a passion for sailing and met another free spirit, the love of her life, Spencer.

Peggy and Spencer were inseparable. They shared a common love of the water and a zest for life. After years of dating, they finally eloped. Every weekend together was spent on a different Florida beach, sailing Hobie cats in a racing league. Their sailing careers did so well that Spencer was invited to sail in a world championship race that took place on the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia. With an opportunity to sail in paradise, they packed their bags and headed to the South Pacific and called it their honeymoon. Tragedy struck, when they were snorkeling. Peggy swam deep into the water to "moon" her new husband. When he didn't react to her antics, she swam over to him and found him floating. He had just suffered a brain aneurysm and died.



## Obituary

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Devastated, Peggy flew home alone.

Peggy started a new chapter of her life, alone and looking for love, once again. It took eight long years for her to meet a handsome man with two young boys whom she fell in love. The boys, Joe and John quickly stole her heart and became the family that she had always wanted. So proud of them from the very beginning, she referred to them as her own sons and the word “step” was never part of her vocabulary.

Rearing them into two strong men, she made them a part of every aspect of her life. They gave her the most joy that she could ever imagine, including making her a grandmother five times over. She spent family vacations with them in places like England, Germany, Greece, Spain and Hawaii. She shared her love of the beach, vacationing, and Jimmy Buffet with them; even trying to turn them into “Parrot Heads”. She lived by her own set of rules and instilled independence in them. Always willing to lend a hand, she taught them to be a supportive spouses, family members and friends. Most of all, she taught them that family has no boundaries.

Peggy’s free spirit, once again became restless just the other night. Her lifetime of journeys ended on this earth and she embarked on another journey without us. It’s just like her to beat us to the punch (or boat drinks, in this case). Surely, she didn’t want to be the first to get there, but if there is one thing that I am certain of... She will meet all of us at the Pearly Gates with open arms and a big smile! She may even have a boat drink or a cheeseburger (in paradise) to greet us with.

Special thanks to Peggy’s employer, Kim Kaszuba of Koch, Hoffman, and Kaszuba, P.A., and her office team, for their extraordinary support through her battle with this disease. Also, for the exceptional care of Dr. Ben Yan’s oncology team and Dr. Michael Gauwitz radiology oncology team. Both offered the most compassionate care any patient or family member could ask for.

A Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 29th, 10:30 a.m., at St. Jerome's Catholic Church, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, FL 33774 (595-4610). Refreshments to follow. At 5 p.m. there will be a Sunset Cruise in Peggy's honor at Hubbard's Marina, Johns Pass.



## Tribute Wall

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RB

**Rita V Benfer** posted:

I was sorry to find this obituary. I went to SHHS with Peggy. We have been searching for her for years to invite her to reunions. We were unsuccessful, until I found this obituary this morning. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. It was comforting to read she had a good and happy life and has left a legacy with children and grandchildren. Prayers from the SHHS Class of 1971.

January 30 at 2:47 AM

DC

**Dina Castellano** lit a candle in honor of Margaret.

How do I express my sorrow after 35 years of friendship, except heartbreak. I used to say Peggy was my friend through thick and thin and this time I failed her. Thank you Gina for giving us the ability to be together for the last time. Peggy, I will miss you forever, as I have for the last couple of years. I know Spencer, Max and your parents were there to meet you with open arms and you must have been overjoyed. May God Bless you and your family through this difficult transition. I love you all as if you were my own family. Love, Dina



December 16 at 12:30 PM

RW

**Renee & Bruce White** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and, Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand. I'll find you in the morning, afternoon & evening sun And when the night is new - I'll be looking at the moon, But I'll be seeing you. A toast to a dear wonderful best friend. We are missing you so.



December 14 at 11:59 AM

WG

**Wright Gres** posted:

Oh, my, Peggy will be missed. I was blessed to have Peggy as my crew over quite a few years sailing and racing Hobie-16s. Those were magical times; a very large group of fellow sailors who became very close friends and competitors, who raced and partied hard. All of us in that community have been blessed by her being such an integral part of lives. Peggy -- couldn't ask for a better crew or friend.-- Wright Gres

December 13 at 11:39 AM



## Media

**Margaret M Southard**

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Renee & Bruce White shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 14 at 11:59 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Margaret by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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