

Shortened Web Version of Biography for Judy and Gene Jacobi Memorial Scholarship

“Mr. Marblehead” would be an apt nickname for volunteer extraordinaire Gene Jacobi. A true gentleman who was well loved by family and friends, Gene devoted his time and considerable talents to many local organizations, including Marblehead Dollars for Scholars. His warm smile, his concern for others and his irrepressible spirit will always be remembered by his loving family and his many friends, who were grateful to have Gene in their lives.

A native of Passaic, New Jersey, Gene graduated from Clifton High School, studied engineering at M.I.T., earned a degree in sociology from Fordham University and received a master’s degree in management science from Pace University. Upon graduation from college, he worked in a variety of major business operation assignments for Bell Laboratories until he retired in 1992.

After his retirement, Gene and his wife moved to Marblehead full-time and he became an avid volunteer, serving on boards of directors for many organizations and was involved in special town projects including: Symphony by the Sea, the Marblehead Museum and Historical Society, Marblehead Dollars for Scholars, the Marblehead Forever Committee, Friends of the Council on Aging, the Marblehead Counseling Center, North Shore Elders, Marblehead Farmers’ Market and Care Dimensions. His contributions to the town were recognized by the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce when he was selected as their 2001 Man of the Year.

Gene lived life to the fullest and shared fifty-one years of marriage with his devoted wife and high school sweetheart, Judy.

Judy was raised in Clifton New Jersey, graduated from Clifton High School in 1957, graduated cum laude from Cedar Crest College in 1961 and earned a Master of Arts degree at Rutgers University Graduate School of Education in 1975. She had a long and successful career as an elementary school teacher in New Jersey and was involved in a variety of school activities including coaching teams for Odyssey of the Mind, which she introduced and coached in Marblehead, after her retirement.

Judy was intelligent, insightful, diplomatic and a great consensus-builder. She felt strongly about giving of her time and talent and immersed herself in an extraordinary number of local organizations that all benefitted others, including: the Old Marblehead Improvement Association, League of Women Voters, Marblehead Historical Society, North Shore Cancer Walk, Marblehead 350th Anniversary of Incorporation Committee, Hospice of the North Shore, Female Humane Society, Marblehead Dollars for Scholars, Friends of the Council on Aging, Old Townhouse Restoration Project, Anchor to Windward, Fort Sewall Oversight Committee, Abbot Hall Building Committee, along with many other charitable organizations and town projects.

Judy was elected and served on the Marblehead Board of Selectmen from 2000-2020, where she had a reputation for being prepared, fair, engaged on the issues and always making time for her constituents.

In 2017, Judy was honored by the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce and received the Rey Moulton Person of the Year award, which was especially meaningful to her, since Gene was a previous recipient of the same award.

Loved by many, Judy and Gene were blessed with loyal and caring family and friends and were devoted to their adoptive hometown of Marblehead. Theirs is a great legacy of service to others that will be honored and remembered through this scholarship.