



### *Memories of Evelyn Peters Kyle*

“I had always loved my Province Chapter Service Award arrow. After I became a CPP in the fall after the 1991 Convention, I learned Evelyn’s husband Stan made all the arrows. I wrote him a thank you note telling him how much I loved the arrow. Evelyn wrote a note back telling me how much my letter meant to him.

I finally met Evelyn in person at the 1993 Convention. We wrote each other frequently, and I loved getting her envelopes in the mail. There were treasures tucked inside, things she knew I would enjoy. And she told me Pi Phi stories. Evelyn was really our last link to the Founders, as she had met several of them. Her passing is really a loss for the Fraternity.”

**- New York Alpha Fran DeSimone Becque**

“I first met Evelyn when my daughter Michelle Willbanks was in college at University of California, Irvine. Several years later, when she was in law school, Michelle called me and asked me to meet her for lunch one day with one of her best friends and her friend’s mother. Michelle and I were the first ones to arrive at the restaurant, but shortly after our friends arrived, along with Evelyn Kyle.

Once we ordered, Evelyn said to me, “Cathy, this is your pledge luncheon.” I was startled and asked what she meant. She told me Michelle had expressed her wishes I could have been a Pi Phi. This got Evelyn thinking and she started the paperwork. I was still in shock until she began explaining how I could be an alumna initiate. Then, she asked if I wanted to be a Pi Phi and I immediately said I did. I was initiated in February 1991 at Michelle’s chapter. After initiation, I discovered Evelyn was there.

I joined the same alumnae club as Evelyn, and took her to all the meetings, as well as our local area council meetings. If any meetings were at nighttime, I always had to call Evelyn as soon as I got home. She was a like a mother.

At times we would go to lunch together, and of course Pi Phi was our main topic of conversation. Every time I was asked to be an officer, whether local or national, I would always call Evelyn and she would be so excited for me.

Evelyn was such a wonderful Pi Phi and friend and I will truly miss her.”

**-California Eta Cathy Birch Daniel**

“I first met Evelyn when I was a collegian. She was of course a ‘famous’ and very respected in Pi Phi. Even though she lived about an hour away from California Eta, she would visit our chapter from time to time. As I progressed in the chapter, becoming a

chapter officer, our paths crossed even more. She lived close to my mother, so I would see her when I go to home to visit and she began to know my mother.

When I applied to become a TGC (now LDC), Evelyn – unbeknownst to me – wrote me a letter of recommendation. When I was selected, she was one of the first people I called. In 1984, at Founder’s Day my senior year, she presented me with a medallion she had purchased at the 1967 Convention celebrating Pi Phi’s centennial. She told me she had purchased two – one for herself, and one she would wait to give to someone special. On the back, she had engraved our initials and the date. It is one of my most treasured pieces.

Evelyn was the reason my mother became an alumna initiate. Over the years, while my relationship with Evelyn grew stronger, she and my mother grew closer. I have felt like Evelyn adopted my mother as her daughter and me as her granddaughter. When my mom was initiated, Evelyn marked the occasion with a poem she wrote called “The Girl with the Big Brown Eyes” – it was about my mother and me.

Pi Phi was such an important part of Evelyn’s life. She was so dedicated and loyal to the Fraternity and so believed and exemplified the values.”

**- California Eta Michelle Murrell Willbanks**

“Memories of Evelyn Kyle go back to when she was Director of Philanthropies before she was on Grand Council. She was a lovely lady and a delightful companion whatever the business of the moment was. Even in her "emeritus" years she was a stalwart and loyal Pi Phi, bringing much thought and imagination to the conversation. She has taken her place among the ladies of Pi Phi who have made our Fraternity the worthy organization it is today.

**- Oklahoma Alpha Betty Bailey Hall**