

A Tribute to Kathryn “Chook” Leisey
A Wonderful Sister-in-Law
by Donald E. Leisey, Ed.D.

When I received the call from Larry that his mother had passed, numerous fond memories of Chook flashed through my mind. I always considered Chook to be a sister that I never had. She was always very good and kind to me. When I was a young child, Meb and Chook lived with Mother, Dad, Bob and me on Broad St. in Honey Brook when they were beginning their marriage. I also worked for Meb and Chook stocking shelves, packing groceries, pumping gas, etc. during my high school years when they had Leisey’s Self Service Market in Glenmore. I believe Meb and Chook’s Glenmore grocery store was highly successful because they both worked very hard putting in long hours, worked as a team, and were very passionate about their business.

Chook was a very special person with whom I always looked forward to seeing when I returned to Pennsylvania for meetings at West Chester University.

Chook was a proud, caring, attentive, upbeat, positive, adventuresome, hard working and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Chook and Meb enjoyed being with their family traveling the country in their travel trailer, spending time at the beach, cooking for family and friends on the outdoor barbecue at “Wat a View”, etc. Chook seemed to enjoy cooking and always prepared outstanding dishes and meals. Thanks to Chook, no one ever left Meb and Chook’s house feeling hungry or that they didn’t get an outstanding snack or meal.

During her youth, Chookie had her own horse and was an outstanding rider and jumper. I remember a summer day before Chook married my brother, she rode her horse into Honey Brook from her family’s farm near the Grange Hall. My mother and I were shelling peas, sitting on our large, back porch at our Broad Street home when Chook rode her horse up the steps and onto the

porch. I can still hear my mother screaming at Chook to get off the porch with her horse because she was afraid the porch would collapse. One summer day Chook was riding her horse practicing jumping when the horse was struck by lightning. Fortunately neither the horse nor Chook were hurt.

You probably didn't know that Honey Brook had its own "Rosie the Riveter." Her name was Chook Leisey! During World War II when Meb was in the Navy on an LST during the Invasion of Normandy, Chook, a new mother, was making her contributions to the war effort, working on a lathe at Stauffer's Machine Shop making cases for shells. Unfortunately, she lost three fingers in a lathe accident and was out of work for a few weeks.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Chook's family and friends. Pat and I are sorry we are unable to be with you during this service and Celebration of Chook's life. The numerous fond memories we have of Chook will keep her with us forever. She will be sorely missed.

The following seems appropriate in reflecting on Chook's life.

HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

(author unknown)

**God saw she was getting tired and a cure was not to be, so
He put His arms around her and whispered, COME TO
ME!**

**With tear filled eyes we watched her suffer and fade
away.**

**Although we loved her dearly, we could not make her
stay.**

**A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands put
to rest.**

**God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the
best.**