



Ann Hughey Sackett

May 16, 1934 - February 17, 2026

Ann (Hughey) Sackett, a longtime resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, passed away in Dallas on February 17, 2026, at the age of 91, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

She was born on May 16, 1934, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Melvin John and Roberta (Woods) Hughey and was raised in Weleetka. After graduating from Weleetka High School, she attended the University of Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa, where she earned a Bachelor of Science.

During a summer job at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, she met William Malcolm "Bill" Sackett, a young chemist from St. Louis, Missouri. They married in 1955 and moved to St. Louis, where Bill pursued his doctorate in chemistry at Washington University while Ann studied for her master's degree at the Barnes Hospital School of Medical Technology. In a testament to her determination, Ann gave birth to their first daughter, Susan, just four days before her graduation exercises in 1957.

In 1958, they moved to Pacific Beach, California, where Bill worked at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Missing proximity to family, they relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Bill conducted geochemical research and their second daughter, Karen, was born in 1960. The couple's love of travel and adventure led them to take advantage of the many interesting

opportunities Bill's academic career presented, moving the whole family to Palisades, New York; Woods Hole, Massachusetts; Pau, France; College Station, Texas; Hanover, Germany; and finally to St. Petersburg, Florida, where they built lasting roots.

Ann dedicated herself to her family as a devoted homemaker while also embracing each community in which they lived. She was known for her vibrant spirit, exceptional culinary skills, and gracious hospitality. Her competitive nature shone brightly on the tennis court, where she was known for a formidable slice and drop shot. In her later years, Ann became an accomplished potter, working from a studio next to their waterfront home in Florida, where she loved entertaining family and friends.

She was an engaged and active citizen, leading the League of Women Voters in both College Station and St. Petersburg. In St. Pete, she also served on the board of the St. Pete Tennis Center, the Society for the Advancement of the Poynter Library, and worked to support her beloved historic neighborhood as part of the Driftwood Neighborhood Association.

She is survived by her loving family, including daughters Susan Sackett-Wilk and her husband Greg, and Karen Sackett-Akins and her husband Dan. Ann also leaves behind three cherished grandchildren: Hannah Kathryn Wilk, Andy Akins, and Sam Akins and his wife, Becca Akins. Other survivors include niece Melissa Hughey Dennis and her husband Peter Dennis; nephew Travis Hughey; cousins Scott Woods, Nancy LaFevers, and Marty Cavanaugh; and brother-in-law Donald Sackett Sr. and family. She was preceded in death by her brother John Hughey, her husband, Dr. William M. Sackett, and nephew Jay Hughey.

Graveside services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, at Hillcrest Cemetery in Weleetka, Oklahoma, under the direction of Rogers

Funeral Home.

A celebration of life will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida, later this spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in her name to the tree-planting fund, Town of Weleetka, 120 W 8th St, Weleetka, OK 74880 or to the St. Pete Tennis Center <https://stpetetenniscenter.com/donations/>

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

Weleetka, OK

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillcrest Cemetery
Weleetka, OK

Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Such a beautiful tribute to Ann, our thoughts and prayers are with her family. We hope that the treasured memories of her will bring comfort during this difficult time. Theresa, Brad and Taylor Wilk*

Theresa Wilk - March 07 at 10:42 AM

LS

“ *Love from Marty, Janet, Nancy and Sylvia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ann Hughey Sackett.*

Love from Marty, Janet, Nancy and Sylvia - March 05 at 06:46 PM

LS

“ *Love from Marty, Janet, Nancy and Sylvia purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ann Hughey Sackett.*



Love from Marty, Janet, Nancy and Sylvia - March 05 at 06:46 PM

LL

“ I met Ms. Sackett when I moved to C.S. in 1970 and met Karen in the 4th (possibly the 5th) grade. Every time Karen would invite me over to spend the night I remember nights with popcorn and Johnny Carson that we watched with her parents along with intellectual conversation (we weren't treated like kids but as people with interesting things to say); every morning Ms. Sackett would have a beautiful breakfast with nice place settings laid out. It wasn't your typical donuts and milk kids breakfast. At that time she was very involved in Women's League Voters and exposed me to the excitement and importance of speaking up about politics and activism. It was because of Ms. Sackett that I learned how to canvas the neighborhood and advocate for what I knew I believed in. She was a lovely formal big hearted person who raised my best friend to be a great activist via her voice and film production. Along the way we also traveled to foreign places and still do to this day. Thank you Ms. Sackett for instilling so many valuable attributes in Karen and me. xo

Laila Fares Lott - March 05 at 12:19 PM

M-

“ Melanie McCann & Laura Lopez -Caregivers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ann Hughey Sackett.

Melanie McCann & Laura Lopez -Caregivers - March 03 at 05:57 PM

DK

“ My wife Dede Kirwan and I were great friends of both Bill and Ann Sackett. We knew them both in College Station and St Petersburg. Ann was a wonderful person. She participated in many civic activities and was a skilled tennis player and ceramist. Our friendship was important to our family. My deepest condolences to her surviving family. Denny Kirwan

Denny Kirwan - February 25 at 10:36 PM



Thanks for reaching out, Denny. She adored you two and Dede was so good about calling my mom and sending cards to mom even in the last years when her memory was starting to go. She loved hearing from her.

Karen Akins - March 02 at 08:48 PM

DT

“ *Condolences to Susan and Karen and to all the family and friends of this exceptional woman. Elegance, kindness, class. Ann had perfected the art of being a good friend and a fierce and fun tennis player.*

Please keep me informed of the memorial being held in St. Petersburg this Spring. Kind regards, Deborah Tuthill. debtut@iclou d.com

Deborah Tuthill - February 22 at 08:34 AM



Thank you for your kind words, Deborah. We have scheduled the celebration of life in St. Petersburg for May 16th, on what would have been her 92nd birthday.

Karen Akins - March 02 at 08:50 PM

DS

A wonderful sister-in-law. Gracious and wonderful host. Spent many interesting nights in St. Pete, Brother Bill and her Wii be be missing

Don Sackett - March 04 at 07:04 PM