



## Judith E. Szalajda

July 17, 1937 - August 30, 2020

Judith Allman Szalajda

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Age 83, passed away on August 30, 2020. Beloved wife of the late John "Judgie" Szalajda. Daughter of the late Mary (Jake) Presser and Bill Allman. Preceded in death by her siblings, Thomas (Carol) and Bill (Doris) Allman. Born in Pittsburgh, Judy worked 25 years with JC Penney before retiring to her home in Glenshaw.

Judy's love of family enabled her to overcome many physical obstacles. She loved generously, laughed heartily and left a legacy of kindness, empathy, and generosity of spirit that lives on with her three children, Jennifer (Harry) Maroney, Jeffrey, and John; and grandchildren, Marina, Max, and Mark. Judy's children were devoted to her and are forever grateful for her unconditional love and support. From her, they learned the importance of living a life of grace and gratitude.

Judy never complained and instead seized every opportunity for joy. She made everyday mornings lively - sharing coffee and toast with her granddaughter Marina while trying so hard to avoid her toes with her scooter. Her strength and determination, whether to complete physical therapy or outlast Jeffrey on a marathon shopping trip were an inspiration to us all. Even the chore of washing dishes became a running joke as she would wait until the dishes were almost done and then ask Johnny, "Wait- do you think the water was hot enough?" And, oh- to be the recipient of the infamous "Judy Glare!"

Judy enjoyed traveling - taking trips to Hawaii, Jamaica, and Las Vegas; annual fall treks to the Bedford Craft show, and even a cruise for her 80th birthday. A consummate game player, she liked nothing more than playing Scrabble and Dominoes with her son John, Four Kings in a Corner with grandsons Max and Mark, and board games with her brother David Presser and his wife Claudia. She found joy in the sunshine and flowers in her own backyard, and celebrated every family milestone with gratitude and pride. Holidays, most

notably Thanksgiving, were especially important. Not just for Judy's famous "stuffing," but for the traditions and laughter while sharing memories and making new ones.

In keeping with Judy's wishes, services are to remain private.