

In Memory
Judith Price
May 7, 1938 - December 24, 2021



Judith Price, age 83, passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 24th, 2021. Judith was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother, but she was known to village collectors as the original Ms. Lit Town from 1989 to 2003.

To many collectors, Judith Price was Department 56 and all that collecting villages stood for. As the Director of Collector Relations for Department 56, Judith Price served in these roles from their inception for 15 years prior to her retirement in 2003. Judith was the liaison from Department 56 to collectors and was able to answer just about any question about the many products and collectibles produced by the company. Her well known phrase was "we'll just have to wait and see," especially when asked about upcoming village releases. During her tenure with Department 56 Judith traveled the country meeting collectors at various gatherings, events, and club meetings. Talking with collectors was the favorite part of her job.

She was instrumental in getting Department 56 to support the National Council of 56 Clubs. To help get the NCC off the ground, Department 56 supported the NCC financially for several years. She served as an honorary member on the first NCC Board. For her support of the NCC she was awarded honorary associate membership status in 1993. The next year, 1994, she was one of four recipients of the NCC "Presidents Award" at the first National NCC Convention held in

Minneapolis. The late Jack Skeels, visionary of the NCC, said, "Without Judith there would be no National Council of 56 Clubs!"

Before she worked with Department 56, she was a Group Insurance Contract Writer with Prudential Insurance Company in Minneapolis. After having been long-time residents of south Minneapolis, she and her husband, Anthony, moved to Bath, NC in 2003.

Upon her retirement, the NCC presented Judith with a memory book at the 2004 Chicago Gathering. Nearly 100 pages of pictures, cards, and letters from the various collector clubs around the country. It can be viewed on the NCC website. At the time of her retirement from Department 56, Peter George, then publisher of the Village Chronicle, said, "Judith Price is one of the classiest people I have had the privilege to know."

She is survived by her husband, Anthony, and children Sarah, Elizabeth, Catherine, Anthony Jr. and Francisco; 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. She attended Penn State University and was predeceased by her older brother, John. Her obituary appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on January 9, 2022. It ended with "Keep her in your heart."

Condolences may be posted online at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune's* obituary guest book or sent to her husband (Anthony Price) at 884 Sawmill Landing, Bath, NC 27808.

She will be missed.

Peggy Culler-Hair
Past NCC President (2000-2003)