

## Edith Elsas



Edith Levy Elsas died peacefully at home on December 24th, 2010, surrounded by her loving children, grandchildren, friends and caregivers. She began her ninety-six years of life's journey as the daughter of Albert and Tessie Levy, in New York, on March 25th 1914. She excelled in school, entering Wellesley College at age 16 years and graduating four years later Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. and a Mrs. - she married Herbert R. Elsas during her senior year, while he was a law student at Harvard University. Herbert returned to his hometown of Atlanta with his new bride in 1935, where Edith supported her husband's law practice with Sutherland (originally Sutherland, Tuttle & Brennan), until his death in 1995. They were married for 63 years. Edith's major contributions were to her family and her community. She raised two sons, "Skip" and Alan, and saw that they were educated with graduate degrees and successful professions. She built an elegant home in the then-undeveloped woods and streams of Northwest Atlanta and was instrumental in the founding of the original Lovett School (Little Lovett) and Fritz Orr Camp, where she supervised and encouraged her children's education and physical development. During World War II, she managed her husband's law practice and cared for their new home and family while Herbert fought for four years in Europe. For decades, she supported her husband and sons' professions by entertaining neighbors, family, and numerous friends at her home on Paces Ferry Road, and encouraging nothing less than an outstanding effort. She was a civic and academic activist. She pioneered in the development of the Atlanta Symphony, the High Museum of Art, Atlanta YMCA, the Temple, the National Council for Jewish Women, the Westminster Schools, the Atlanta History Center, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and the Breman Heritage Museum. She supported the Visiting Nurses Health System, the American Cancer Center, Egleston and Children's Hospital of Atlanta, the Carter Center, the Georgia Conservancy, Women's Auxiliary of Piedmont Hospital, Georgia Chamber Players, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro-Atlanta. In addition, she enjoyed her neighborhood garden club, Chatta-Ridge, and her ladies investment club, Financial Forum II. Three institutions which were special to her, and to which she gave time, effort and consideration were Wellesley College, Emory University, and the Atlanta Committee for International Visitors (ACIV). Many generations of Wellesley graduates recall her as a hostess and admissions resource. Wellesley teas at her home were legendary, and over the decades, she served as an advisor to Wellesley search committees, admissions committees, and scholarship and awards committees. At Emory University, she established the Albert E. Levy Faculty Research Award and the Herbert R. Elsas Reading Room in the Law Library in memory of her father and husband, respectively. She supported law, music, art, and medicine, while serving on the Emory University Board of Visitors. Many believe that her efforts on behalf of the ACIV helped lay the foundation for Atlanta's successful bid for the 1996 Olympics. In addition to these examples of her numerous community activities, she always found quality time for family. She organized family reunions at every opportunity, with memorable trips to Europe, the Caribbean, Alaska, and the Baltic Sea. She enjoyed a close-knit set of friends on Saturday nights, and the "Saturday-Nighters" children and grandchildren remain friends from generation to generation. She is survived by her four devoted children, Dr. and Mrs. Louis and Nancy Elsas, and Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Katharine Elsas; five grandchildren: Nancy Louise Elsas, Margaret Elsas Hartley and her husband John, Jacob Elsas, Alan Elsas Jr., Charles Elsas and his wife Ann; and seven great-grandchildren. Special thanks should be given to Edith's devoted caretakers who provided loving support in her later years. Visitation will take place at H.M. Patterson & Son, Spring Hill on Sunday, the twenty-sixth of December from four o'clock until seven o'clock in the evening. Funeral services will be held at The Temple on Peachtree Street at eleven o'clock in the morning on Monday, the twenty-seventh of December followed by a private family burial at Westview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Wellesley College, the Atlanta Symphony, Emory University, or any of many worthy causes that you and Edith would like to continue supporting. Online condolences may be made at [hmpattersonspringhill.com](http://hmpattersonspringhill.com).

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