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**SUNA®**

**PERLE SUNA PASSES AWAY**



Perle Suna, 95, passed away in her Manhattan home on January 20, 2017, leaving behind a legacy with Suna Bros.

Her tenure in the jewelry industry began by happenstance in 1972. Substituting for the office manager of Suna Bros. who had suddenly resigned, Perle was interviewing candidates when she concluded after only three days that she was the best suited for the position. For the next 38 years, Perle was a driving force behind Suna Bros, working alongside her husband, Kenneth Suna, until his death in 1975, then later with sons Aron and Jonathan until her retirement in 2009 at age 88. Respected and loved by her colleagues in the industry, Perle's business acumen and formidable intelligence shepherded Suna Bros. through almost four decades. A member of the American Gem Society, Perle was a Certified Gemologist and Registered Supplier. She attended many Conclaves. She hosted a biannual industry party which garnered the greatest attendance just so colleagues could be regaled by her.

Though Perle had the opportunity to be one of the founding members of the Women's Jewelry Association, she declined because she didn't believe in the exclusivity of men and women. Instead, Perle championed combined equality. She was forward thinking and liberal in her politics, progressive before the word came back into vogue.

Perle was extraordinary; a fiercely independent woman with an insatiable appetite for knowledge. She disarmed everyone with her quick wit, her strongly held opinions and acute grasp of situations. Encouraged by her father at an early age, Perle graduated from Brooklyn College with a degree in English and later received her masters in Education from Adelphi University. She and Kenneth Suna married during WWII while he was stationed at an Army Air Force base in Florida and eventually settled in Freeport, Long Island, where children Aron, Lila and Jonathan were raised. She spent those years in Freeport championing the causes of the disadvantaged. Perle highly prized the work of the Anti-Defamation League and B'nai B'rith where she served as President of her local chapter.

Perle was a prodigious reader with a lifelong book-a-day habit, finishing a remarkable thirty-two thousand, one hundred twenty titles. Her other passions were Tudor history, opera, bridge, films and mysteries. She consistently remained engaged in world events and was delighted by technological advances.

Because Perle was so perceptive, the time spent with her grandchildren — Kenneth, Claire, Natalie, Carolyn, Phillip, and Lauren — revealed her deep insights and intuitive grasp of each one's unique personality and abilities. She believed that her grandchildren would be successful in whatever they chose to do because she believed that each one possessed an inner spirit of kindness and confidence.

Perle lived her life with fierce courage, singular independence and elegant grace.

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