

Claudette Riley Sisk, Who Set the Standard

For America's Majorettes, Dies at 74

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASHVILLE, TN., November 3, 2015--Claudette Riley Sisk, a Knoxville native who pioneered the baton-twirling acrobatics that have become standard for marching bands across America, died Monday in Nashville. The former Miss Majorette of America and 1980 inductee into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame was 74.

Ms. Sisk first appeared with the University of Tennessee Pride of the Southland Marching Band at halftime of a UT football game in 1958 when she was still in high school, and became the first scholarship majorette in UT history a year later. In her competitive years, she was named All-American Twirling Queen in 1957, and the Miss Majorette of America title followed in 1959.

Following her college career, Ms. Sisk became a well-known baton instructor, and for more than 25 years conducted seminars and workshops for young girls throughout the country.

She is survived by her husband, T. Edward Sisk of Nashville; daughter Allison Jones of Nashville (Greg), and grandchildren Billy, Riley and Luke Jones; son Thomas Sisk of Washington, D.C.; and brother Roger Riley (Anne) of Knoxville.

Funeral services are planned for Saturday in Nashville, with specific arrangements to be announced.

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