



Anne S. VonSchwerdtner

June 28, 1931 - June 3, 2014

Anne Von Schwerdtner passed away at home on June 3, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. Her final weeks were peaceful and as comfortable as possible, spent with family members and very capable and kind care-givers.

Anne was born on June 28, 1931 in Bel Air, MD. She was raised on a farm and shared many stories about growing up during World War II and how different life was then. She would reminisce about blackout drills, paper drives, food rationing, the music of the time, and the impact of the war. Anne's second son, Fred, was named after Anne's cousin Fred Kullmar, who died in combat in 1944.

Anne graduated, as valedictorian of her class, at Bel Air High School, in 1948. She attended Towson State University the following fall and earned a teaching degree in Elementary Education four years later. Her first teaching position was in Pocomoke City, MD., where she taught first grade for two years. She also taught for several years in Newark, DE., but she spent most of her career working for East Windsor School District in Hightstown, NJ. Anne taught first and second grades in public schools during her 32-year career. She also assisted her husband Von, as a houseparent at the Peddie School, in Hightstown, N.J., for many years. Dozens of her students, particularly those from Peddie, have remained lifelong friends.

Anne had a special gift for reaching students presented with unique challenges. Her ability to create an effective and fun learning environment for them was unparalleled. She believed that there was not one way of instruction for all students. Yet Anne had the uncanny knack of finding just the right teaching method for each one. Her creativity made her exceptional at her craft.

Anne had two sons, Steve and Fred Bull, by her first husband Robert Bull. In 1967, she married Dietrich von Schwerdtner, known to most as "Mr. Von," who helped raise her boys. Anne and Von, also a teacher, shared a love of young people that was reflected in their devotion to giving students the tools necessary to achieve success. Their instruction was always punctuated with a genuine love and affection. Anne and Von's campus quarters at Peddie, a boarding school in New Jersey, became a second home to students. Many times, Anne remarked that these were some of the happiest years of her life.

In 1996, upon retirement, Anne and Von moved to Chambersburg, PA, to be closer to their son Fred and his family. Anne enjoyed pursuing some of her interests there, which included reading, cooking, keeping up with current events, e-mailing friends, and even embracing communication through Facebook. She never stopped learning and being curious about the world around her. She was devoted to her husband and family; there is nothing that she wouldn't do for them.

Anne was the daughter of the late Helen and Clyde Spencer. She was predeceased by her son Steve, in 2009, and by her husband Von, in 2010. She is survived by her son Fred and his significant other, Tammy Byers, of Chambersburg and Anne's grandchildren: Spencer Bull, of Oakland, ME, Tyler Bull of Philadelphia, PA, Zachary Bull of Brooklyn, NY, and Allison Bull of Chambersburg, PA. Family also includes sister-in-law Anne von Schwerdtner of Baltimore, MD, long-time sister-in-spirit Betsy O'Donnell of Jarrettsville, MD,

and cousin Dorothy Yingling of Timonium, MD.

A celebration of Anne's life will be held at Sellers Funeral Home in Chambersburg, PA on Monday, June 9th at 12:00 pm. There will be a visitation one hour prior to the service at 11:00 am. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. There will be no reception.

It is requested that flowers not be sent. In lieu of this, contributions may be made to the Salvation Army or Peddie School, 201 South Main Street, Hightstown, N.J. 08520.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Anne S. VonSchwerdtner, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.