



Dorothy Stearns Wenzinger

Dorothy (“Dottie”) Stearns Wenzinger died unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 23, 2011, surrounded by beloved members of her immediate family. She was 83 years old.

Dottie was born in Binghamton, NY, on July 14, 1928, and grew up in Cheverly, MD. She studied nursing at the University of Maryland where she met Carl Wenzinger, whom she later married. Dottie, Carl and their children lived in the Washington, DC area, Indiana, and Massachusetts, making friendships along the way that lasted a lifetime. In 1974 they settled in Vestal, moving to The Highlands in Johnson City eleven years ago.

Dottie was the consummate nurturer whose love for family and friends knew no bounds. She had a unique and special bond with each of her four children and sixteen grandchildren. Leading by example, she taught them to be compassionate and generous. Dottie will long be remembered for her caring and supportive ways. She was passionate about staying in touch with the important people in her life through cards, notes, letters and phone calls. She never missed an opportunity to wish someone a happy birthday or anniversary, accompanied by words of love, inspiration, and encouragement.

A devout Christian who quietly lived her faith, Dottie had a close and personal relationship with God. Her faith influenced every aspect of her life. She was a member of the Vestal Center United Methodist Church for 37 years.

Dottie loved music and sang in church choirs for most of her life. She served as a Girl Scout troop leader, a Cub Scout den mother, and a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. She was also a United Methodist lay speaker and an active member of the United Methodist Women.

From her mother, Dottie acquired a love of poetry; even after more than 70 years, she could recite from memory lengthy passages that she learned as a child. She had a gift for writing original verse, finding the appropriate poem for every situation and creatively adapting the poetry of others to express her personal sentiments.

Dorothy is survived by her four children: Leigh (Michael) Walls of Concord, NH; Karen (Jim) Holtz of Pleasanton, CA; Ron (Cindy) Wenzinger of Whitney Point; and Don (Susan) Wenzinger of Vestal. She is also survived by a brother, Russell (Marilyn) Stearns; brother-in-law Tommy Walters; grandchildren Allison and Bethany Walls; Eva, Emily, Abigail, Rebekah and Arthur Holtz; Sean (Sarah), Steven (Laurie), Marilyn, Robyn and Noah Wenzinger; Grant, Emma, Meghan and Evan Wenzinger; great-grandsons Mark and Hunter Warren and Remi Wenzinger; and an extensive network of family and dear friends, including Karen Hazelton. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Carl J. Wenzinger, Jr.; her sister, Barbara Stearns Walters; and her brother-in-law, George Wenzinger.

Neighbors and friends are invited to visit with the family at The Highlands Community Center (725 Lee Circle, Johnson City) on Thursday, December 1, between 4 and 7 PM. A celebration of her life will be held at the Vestal Center United Methodist Church (478 West Hill Rd., Vestal) on Friday, December 2, at 11 AM. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Vestal Center United Methodist Church music fund (478 West Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850); World Vision International (P. O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063); or a charity of your choosing that benefits children.

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