



Mary Ellen C. Van De Water

October 31, 2017

Mary Ellen C. Van De Water, 93, formerly of Longmeadow and Orleans, MA, died on October 31 at Medford Leas in Medford, NJ.

Mary Ellen Chamberlain was born on February 4, 1924, in Chicago, IL, to Sydney Dakin Chamberlain and Mary Paine Chamberlain of Walpole, MA. A 1945 graduate of Mount Holyoke College with a degree in music, Mary Ellen taught for a year at Tenacre School, then married Livingston Van De Water, Jr. on August 31, 1946. They lived in Litchfield and Southington, CT, early in their married life, then in Longmeadow, MA, where they raised two sons and a daughter. They retired to Orleans on Cape Cod in 1979.

Beloved wife of sixty years, Mary Ellen sadly lost her husband in 2006 and was also predeceased by her brother, Sydney Dakin Chamberlain, Jr. She is survived by her sister, Harriet C. Wilson, of Ravenna, OH. Her remaining family includes her children, Livingston Van De Water III of North Egremont, MA, Margaret Van De Water Van Meter of Moorestown, NJ, Wesley Dakin Van De Water of Orchard Park, NY, and their spouses, as well as seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, several nephews, and a niece. She loved them all dearly.

Mary Ellen deeply enjoyed choral and orchestral music, and she was a highly regarded soprano soloist. Always a faithful church member, she sang in choirs at First Congregational Church (Southington, CT) and First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, where she sang professionally for over twenty years. The Federated Church of Orleans (Massachusetts) and First Presbyterian of Haddonfield (New Jersey) as well as the Chatham Chorale (Massachusetts) benefitted from Mary Ellen's musical gifts over the years. A compassionate and encouraging teacher, she led a Girl Scout troop, tutored children with learning differences, was a vocal instructor at Bay Path University, and taught voice privately in Longmeadow.

In her early years, Mary Ellen was a camper at Luther Gulick Camps in Sebago Wohelo (Maine), where she also served as Head Counselor. She was president of her class at Mt.

Holyoke College in her senior year and for ten years thereafter. She was a member of many committees at First Church of Christ in Longmeadow and Federated Church in Orleans, where she served as a Deacon and co-chair of the Music and Pastor-Parish committees.

A celebration of Mary Ellen's life and legacy will take place at a memorial service at 3:00 PM on December 9 at Medford Leas in Medford, NJ. A service and interment will take place in Orleans, MA, in the summer.

Memorial donations may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield at <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org>.

Cemetery

PRIVATE INTERMENT

NJ,

Comments



“ Our thoughts are with you today and we hope that the day is full of memories and love for Aunt Mary Ellen. Over the past several weeks we have reflected on the very full life of Aunt Mary Ellen. So many memories have come to mind both in Longmeadow and on the Cape. Perhaps my favorite memory was when we gathered at the Converse Street house for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners. Even today I can hear her sweet voice singing, filling the air, while busily preparing or cleaning up the meal. The voice, her voice never failed to cause me to pause and just listen for a bit. It was for me one of the fabrics of the season.

We wish we could be there today but know that we are in spirit. Love to all those gathered to honor and love this wonderful woman. Peace, Cathy, Marie, and Ned

Ned Chamberlain - December 09, 2017 at 12:28 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Margaret - December 05, 2017 at 04:58 PM



“ Here is Mary Ellen shortly after moving to Medford Leas.



Margaret Van Meter - November 21, 2017 at 06:31 PM



“ Marieke and Doug Burt are most sorry to learn of her passing. she was the soprano soloist here in the First Congregational Church here in Longmeadow MA and sang at our wedding in October 1961. She was always a wonderful person to sing with here in church.

Douglas E Burt - November 15, 2017 at 03:33 PM



“ This photo is from Grandma's (Namma's) birthday earlier this year. Nice big smile!



Luke Van Meter - November 11, 2017 at 10:29 AM