



Darlene Kay McWilliams

March 19, 2020

Darlene Kay McWilliams, 71, of Lancaster, PA, passed into her Savior's arms at home on Thursday, March 19, 2020 after a six-year battle with Primary Progressive Aphasia. She was born on June 7, 1948 in Canton, Ohio, was the daughter of the late Arthur H. and Caroline (Houston) Bracken, and for the past 46 years was the wife of Charles S. McWilliams.

Darlene was a 1966 graduate of Canton South High School (Ohio) and a 1970 graduate with honors from Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma. For most of her life, she was an elementary school teacher beginning her teaching in Stark County, Ohio. After her marriage, she taught in Exeter Township (Berks Co.), Manheim Township School District, Ephrata School District, and the School District of Lancaster from where she retired in 2014. She spent most of her career in elementary education as a teacher and reading specialist enjoying the education of young minds. For many years Darlene was also in charge of the youth and Sunday School programs at First United Methodist Church, Lancaster.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, and formerly was active in the Lancaster Branch of AAUW and the Junior League. Darlene received many awards and accolades for her help with families of children with Down Syndrome and the mainstreaming of children with Down Syndrome into the regular school system of education. Her interests included cooking, traveling, walking, the outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. She will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness for others.

In addition to her husband, Darlene is survived by her daughters, Melanie J. married to Anthony Villanueva of Imperial Beach, CA, Sharyn K. partner of Sean Brennan of Queenstown, New Zealand, and her son, Kyle C. McWilliams of Lancaster. Also surviving are two granddaughters, Ilsa and Fern Villanueva of Imperial Beach, CA, and two brothers, Bruce A. Bracken, married to Sandy, of Massillon, OH and Mark A. Bracken, married to Diane, of Canton, OH.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Those desiring may send memorial gifts to First United Methodist Church, 29 East Walnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or to Schreiber Center for Pediatric Services, 625 Community Way, Lancaster, PA 17603

Comments



“ To Darlene's husband, family, friends, and former students,

With a mixture of sadness and joy, I read today about Darlene's launching off on a grand adventure as she begins experiencing her reward for the exemplary life she lived, while we mourn the loss of a friend and loved one. I join Pat Carnes and Ron Moss, as we recall our good fortune in having known a very special high school classmate. Even before high school, I knew Darlene, as we attended the same church in Canton, Ohio. In addition to being lovely, she was a rare combination of intelligence, kindness, and humor.

David Carpenter
Atlanta, Georgia

David Carpenter - March 31, 2020 at 10:00 AM



“ Chuck,

Ruth and I send our sincerest condolences. Her dedication (and yours) to children with special needs was so heartwarming. She was a great role model for so many families and your teamwork is to be cherished and remembered by all.

Bill Crabtree

WILLIAM D CRABTREE - March 25, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ We were high school classmates and long time friends. I was drawn by her friendliness and sweet personality. Her smile was contagious. She was very caring and outgoing. Her students were fortunate to have her as a teacher. Thots and prayers to her family. Heaven has received another angel!

Patrick Carnes - March 25, 2020 at 12:53 AM



“ Darlene was my 5th grade teacher. She was progressive and taught us much about today’s world. I loved this lady and kept in touch with her for years after she left the Sandy Valley School District. I am greatly saddened by her passing. My prayers to her family

Sharon Gray - March 24, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ Her 1966 Classmates from Canton South High School are sad to see of her passing. Rest in Peace.

Ron Moss - March 24, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Chuck & Kyle,
Remembering our sweet friend, Darlene, and all the fun times we shared together.
Jan & Stu

Stu Nosky - March 23, 2020 at 01:14 PM



“ Chuck and Kyle:

We are truly saddened to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Fondly,
Albert, Marilyn and Jack

Marilyn Knepp - March 23, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ Remembering Darlene’s sweet nature and her loving care of her family, friends, students and community. May comfort be found remembering all her good works. Our prayers and thoughts are with Chuck and the family.
Love, Jack & Arlette Wright

Arlette Wright - March 23, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ Chuck and Kyle, thinking of you both at this time. Phil and Ruth Mallinson

Ruth Mallinson - March 22, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ Just want to give my condolences to my friend Kyle and also to the family to I do feel sorry for Kyle I knew Darlene as a wonderful person. I am so thankful that she told us about the ken's krew Program. I did enjoy riding with her to the ken's krew meeting's and events.

Jon Yoder

Jon Yoder - March 22, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Chuck,
I was saddened and surprised by the news. I remember those days on East Orange Street when we all shared so many dinners and helped each other out so often. Darlene was always a delight; cheerful, energetic, and a warm and loving person. It all seems long ago now. Ev, who was in Darlene's Leadership Lancaster class, said to be sure to be remembered to you. I am sure that with this social isolation it is hard on you and your family; we wanted you to know we are thinking of you at this difficult time. Neil and Ev Albert

neil albert - March 22, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ It was a pleasure to have Darlene be a part of our Bible study.. a wonderful Christian, caring n fun loving person. Remembering some of our Red Days too.
Prayers for the family. Jeanne Paules

Jeanne Paules - March 21, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ My fondest memory is of Darlene as Kyle's Mom. Sure, Chuck deserves credit also, but Kyle has become such a fine and capable young man because of the total love and conscientious care given to him all his life by his Mom and Dad. We all have been blessed to know Darlene. -- Jim Adams

Jim Adams - March 21, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We have wonderful memories of Darlene from First Methodist Church. Dan and Bev Longenecker

Bev Longenecker - March 21, 2020 at 07:55 AM