



Eleanor Whitaker

August 17, 1926 - February 5, 2020

Eleanor Louise Whitaker (nee Böthel) – August 17, 1926 – February 5, 2020

Eleanor Whitaker died at home, surrounded by family, on February 5, 2020 after a brief illness.

Eleanor and Norman, her loving husband of 65 years, moved to Nashua in 1955, and then to Hudson in 1958. Eleanor was an enthusiastic and devoted mother of five, grandmother of thirteen, and great-grandmother of three.

Young Eleanor's love of reading became a lifelong passion for learning. She was a strong advocate for public school education. Her leadership inspired all of her children and grandchildren to attend college. Her keen interest in education inspired others, and is reflected in the number of teachers, doctors, engineers, musicians and other problem solvers among her offspring. Her influence lives on and she will never be forgotten.

Eleanor was born in Portland, Maine and raised in South Portland and Cape Elizabeth by her parents, Herman Böthel and Marjorie Böthel (nee Peabbles).

She graduated at the top of her Cape Elizabeth High School class in 1943. She was not recognized as Valedictorian, as that honor was reserved for the highest-ranking male. Upon graduation, Eleanor worked at the telephone company. She left work to care for her mother Marjorie, who died in 1953 of ALS. Following her mother's death, Eleanor worked at Maine's WCSH Radio and TV station as the commercial content coordinator. There she met, fell in love, and married Norm, who was a broadcast engineer.

As avid walkers, Norm and Eleanor became a fixture in Hudson, where they hailed friendly neighbors and Eleanor appreciated flower gardens along their route. Her lifelong love of flowers was reflected in her beautiful gardens and her deep horticultural knowledge made her a source of advice and inspiration.

Eleanor was deeply loved and will be missed by her husband of 65 years, Norman, her

daughter and son-in-law Nancy and James Hile of Deerfield IL, and three sons and their wives: Norman and Mari Whitaker of Bellevue WA, Kenneth and Frances Whitaker of Manchester NH, and Andrew and Kathy Whitaker of Hollis NH. She was predeceased by beloved son Eric.

A reception of remembrance for family and friends will be held at the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry Street, Hudson, NH on Monday, February 10th from 11:30am – 2:00pm. Donations in Eleanor's memory may be made to the ALS Therapy Development Institute at www.als.net or at (617) 441-7200 or End Brain Cancer at www.endbraincancer.org or at (425) 444-2215.

Events

FEB **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** 11:30AM - 02:00PM

10

Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home Hudson, NH
50 Ferry Street, Hudson, NH, US, 03051

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes - February 10 at 11:22 AM



“ Hello, Norman
I am very saddened to learn of the death of your beloved Eleanor. I have lovely memories of her on the many PMD trips we attended. She was a beautiful, gracious woman. My deepest condolences to you and your family. Rita Cuker

Cuker Rita - February 07 at 02:43 PM



“ Andy, Kathy and family, I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of your Mom. I have missed seeing your Mom and Dad on their daily walks. In the good weather I still admire all the wonderful flowers your Mom has growing in their yard. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sheryl Forkey - February 07 at 12:07 PM



“ Andy and Kathy,

I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your Mom. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family.

Laura



Laura J Ludiwg - February 07 at 10:39 AM



“ Hi Andy,
I am so sorry to hear about your loss. May God comfort the hearts of you and your family at this time. You are in my prayers.

Ravi

Ravi Hans - February 07 at 08:58 AM



“ Andy & Kathy,

May the love of those around you help you and your family through the days ahead. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Diana

Diana Vergato - February 06 at 04:03 PM



“ Andy,
I am very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts. Hug those around you.

Jeff

Jeff Coote - February 06 at 02:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Album



mari - February 06 at 12:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Album



mari - February 06 at 12:33 PM



“ Andy, May memories of your mom including summers away help to heal your broken hearts in the days to come. You are in my thoughts and prayers, Marianne.



Marianne Rivard - February 05 at 06:11 PM



“ Andy and family,
These are difficult times, when a loved one leaves us.
Chris and I are thinking of you all, and sending prayers. May your Mom rest in peace.
Kim and Chris Mooney

Kim and Chris Mooney - February 05 at 04:40 PM