



Leona C. Forster

November 6, 1937 - September 16, 2019

OBITUARY FOR LEONA C. FORSTER

Farmington - Leona Forster, 81, of Farmington, passed peacefully into the arms of God on Monday, September 16, while surrounded by her family. Leona was born in Olmstedville, New York, Nov. 6, 1937, the daughter of Christina Hanniffy and Leo Sheehan. She married Richard Forster in 1958 at Chestertown, New York. They moved to Farmington, Maine in 1964 and brought up their children in this area. She was an active member of the community and had a positive impact on countless lives. Leona was employed by SAD #9 for 22 years, spending most of those years as a beloved secretary at the Kenneth Foster Vocational Center at Mt. Blue High School. Leona was very active at St Joseph's Parish in Farmington. During the tenure of pastor Fr. Joseph McKenna, she was the Religious Education Coordinator. As a member of the Ladies' Altar Guild she initiated a program to provide after-funeral luncheons for grieving families. This involved making phone calls, shopping for supplies, and baking wonderful desserts. She continued this work up until recently. Leona also served as co-chair of the Guild for five years. In addition, after her retirement, she volunteered at the Care and Share Food Pantry for many years. Leona enjoyed travelling with Dick, and they were often joined by their friends Norma and Gene Montena from New York, who were responsible for setting Leona and Dick up on a blind date in 1957. Some of the trips they took included Alaska, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Von Trapp Lodge in Vermont. They also visited Florida several times; and took each of their grandchildren to Disney World. One of Leona and Dick's most memorable trips was one they took to Ireland in 2011. Leona's family originated in Galway. During their trip they were able to visit her relatives, some of whom she had never met in person. They spent a day in the cottage where her mother grew up, and chatted with family as they sat by the same peat-burning fireplace that had once heated the home. Leona loved music! She and Dick attended countless concerts featuring their son Andy's band students. They were also in the audience of nearly every public concert by the Downeast Brass, a band in which Andy plays trumpet. Many wonderful memories were made at their condo in Rangeley, where they frequently hosted gatherings of family and friends. Leona enjoyed attending Our Lady of the Lakes Church in Oquossoc, and especially liked the priest there, Fr. Paul Plante. Children were Leona's

passion. She was the champion of any child who was lacking anything, whether it be clothing, sneakers, food, or most of all, love. Her warm hugs were well-known by both children and adults. Her own children were her pride and joy. Being a mom was perhaps her greatest gift.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Richard, daughter Teresa Ann Cleary and her husband Jason of Somersworth, NH, and two sons, Dr. Richard Forster and his wife Maureen from Holliston, MA and Andrew Forster and his wife Dr. Alicia Forster from Oakland, ME. She has three grandchildren, Erin Rose Cleary from Somersworth, NH and Tyler and Daniel Forster from Holliston, MA. Leona is also survived by a brother, John B. Sheehan from Minerva, NY and a sister Rose Marie Morse and her husband Frederick from Minerva, NY.

She was predeceased by her parents and two sisters, Teresa Beattie and Patricia Ross and one brother W. Michael Sheehan. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the outstanding staff at Sandy River Center in Farmington, and Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice. Leona received excellent and loving care in her last months. Family and friends are invited to visit on Thursday, September 19th, from 5:00-7:00pm at the Wiles Remembrance Center, 137 Farmington Falls Road, Farmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am Saturday, September 21st, from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Middle Street, Farmington, followed by a luncheon at the Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or stjude.org. Condolences and tributes may be shared with her family on her memorial wall at www.wilesrc.com.

Cemetery

Events

Fairview Cemetery

Farmington Falls Road
Farmington, ME, 04938

SEP 19 **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Farmington Location
137 Farmington Falls Rd, Farmington, ME, US, 04938

SEP 21 **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Middle Street, Farmington, ME, US, 04938

SEP 21 **Reception** 11:15AM

St. Joseph's Parish Hall
Middle Street, Farmington, ME, US, 04938

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Wiles Remembrance Center and staff - September 18, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ Leona was a kind and thoughtful woman who worked professionally with me at Foster Tech. I used to go to the Derby in her birth town of Oldsteadville, NY with fellow teacher Janet Allen. No wonder she was such an incredible woman coming from a great place in the Adirondack mountains to the Western Maine Mountains. She is one of the old school best of woman I was fortunate to learn from and be friends with. My condolences.

Kelly Sabin - September 27, 2019 at 08:57 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Leona C. Forster.



September 19, 2019 at 04:03 PM



“ Well, hello there! That was how Leona always greeted us when we'd visit in Perham Street. Warmly greeted and wished well every single time. Perhaps she will welcome us all one day

David Fearon - September 18, 2019 at 02:01 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Leona C. Forster.



September 18, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ Sending love and prayers to Leona’s family. So enjoyed our times attending marching band competitions.

Barb Davis

Barbara Davis - September 18, 2019 at 12:22 PM



“ 114 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wiles Remembrance Center and staff - September 18, 2019 at 12:19 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Leona's family. Leona was a delight and fun lady to be around. Dale and Judy Fairbanks

Dale and Judy Fairbanks - September 18, 2019 at 08:53 AM



“ We’re sending sympathy and hugs to all who loved Leona.
Gina Murphy and Mike Durr

Gina Murphy - September 18, 2019 at 06:23 AM



“ Rick, Theresa, Andy, Dick and family, my deepest sympathies. Sending love and prayers to you all.

Rev Deborah Gildart-Hanks

Deborah Gildart-Hanks - September 17, 2019 at 10:18 PM