



Burnette Marie Decker

November 4, 1931 - May 3, 2014

Burnette M. Decker, 82, of Lake Ridge Virginia, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2014, due to complications from a recent heart attack and stroke. She is survived by her husband, William J. Decker, children Karen Decker Bernoussi of Springfield, Kim Decker Waters of Lake Ridge, Kevin Decker of Beacon, New York, siblings Mary Jane Marino of West Palm Beach, Florida, Edward McKenna of Lakeworth, Florida, Leon McKenna of Suffield, Connecticut and grandchildren Zaki Bernoussi, Driss Bernoussi, and Olivia Waters.

Mrs. Decker studied at Oneonta State Teachers College in New York and was a passionate, life-long educator. In addition to supporting her devoted husband of 62 years and raising three children, her most notable accomplishments include the founding of a public library in South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania and development and direction of Paleontology Studies for the In-School Program at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, PA (where she was fondly known as "the dinosaur lady"). Locally, she was a coach for elementary school children in the Odyssey of the Mind program, a devoted volunteer at the Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), and a docent at the National Museum of American History.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 on Wednesday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 PM. Mass of Christian Burial at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 12975 Purcell Rd, Manassas, VA 20112 on Thursday, May 8th at 10 AM. Interment private.

Tribute Wall



“ *Burnette Marie Decker*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *We remember Burnette with great fondness from our earliest days as docents at the Smithsonian. She was warm, outgoing, and a pleasure to know. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.*
Lee and Joyce Stern

May 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kim - thinking about you and wishing you peace. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

May 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Decker family, We are so sorry for your loss. May your fond memories comfort you at this difficult time.*

May 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen, so very sorry to read about your loss! May you find strength in the loving memories of your mom in the days ahead.*

May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen, sending hugs from the Shoemaker's. Your Mom was a wonderful woman. I remember her at all the games. She was a joy. Laurie, Ed and Scott Shoemaker*

May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bill and Family: Our sincere sympathies to you and the entire family. She will be missed by all of us.*
Eleanor and Peter Boyne

May 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM