



Sandra McNeal Ackley

November 22, 1939 - October 12, 2016

Sandra McNeal Ackley, a long-time resident of Springfield, Virginia, died Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at Inova Alexandria Hospital. Sandra "Sandy" McNeal was born in Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island in Maine on November 22, 1939. She grew up playing along Maine's rocky coast and in nearby Acadia National Park. One of her most vivid childhood memories was being evacuated, along with her mother and sister, during the October 1947 fire that destroyed much of the island.

She graduated from Bar Harbor High School in 1957 and then attended Husson College in Bangor. While at Husson College she met her future husband, Frank Ackley. They were married for 57 years.

Frank and Sandra moved to the Washington, DC area in 1961. Sandra worked for General Electric, a yarn shop at Springfield Mall, and as an Administrative Assistant for Olivet Episcopal Church in Franconia, Virginia. Sandra was working for GE at an office near the White House on November 22, 1963 and watched tearfully as the flags were lowered to half-staff for the death of President Kennedy before the news was even announced to the public.

Sandra was a member of Franconia United Methodist Church for over 50 years. She created the church's prayer shawl ministry and was a member of the bell choir. She designed and helped create the purple Advent needlepoint altar set that was used by the church for years, as well as one of the kneelers. Sandra loved all kinds of needlework. Knitting and crocheting were two of her

favorite activities, but she was also skilled at counted cross-stitch and needlepoint. If she wasn't knitting or crocheting, she was reading. She also enjoyed music and played the piano and handbells.

She was predeceased by her parents, Vinal "Red" McNeal and Pauline Morse McNeal, and stepmother Beverly Johnson McNeal. She is survived by her husband Frank, son Anthony, daughter-in-law Rhonda, daughter Suzanne, grandchildren Rose and Nick, her sister and brother-in-law Linda and Jon Allen, and stepsister Sharon Johnson.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310 on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 11:00 AM.

Tribute Wall



“ *Sandra McNeal Ackley*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:58 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Sandra was a lovely and talented lady. We still use the afghan she made us for our wedding over 34 years ago. I will miss her newsy Christmas letters that made us feel like we were right there with her. We wish we could be there for the service. We will be thinking of you.*

October 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM