



Hortense E. Keays

August 17, 1930 - January 7, 2018

Hortense "Tensie" Eichelberger Keays, 87, of Lancaster, PA, passed away on January 7, 2018 (at the Lancaster Mennonite Home). She was predeceased by her husband, William "Bill" Lewis Keays, Sr., to whom she had been happily married to for 65 years. Tensie and Bill were blessed with three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great granddaughters. Growing up in Saxton, PA., Tensie was a 1947 graduate of Saxton Liberty High School. She earned her BS in education at Marycrest College in Davenport Iowa in 1965 in order to pursue her passion for teaching children. Tensie went on to earn a Master of Education from Millersville University in 1972. She taught over thirty years with the majority of them at Providence Elementary in the Solanco School District. After retirement, Tensie substituted in her local Amish community school. She also worked with the New Hope Community Life Ministries in Quarryville, PA, as an early representative from St. Michael's Lutheran Church congregation. She was a member of the educational sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, as well as a founding member of Norman's Mormans.

Tensie was a world traveler and visited China, South Africa, Mexico, Ireland, Switzerland, Russia, Fiji, Guatemala, Canada, Ecuador, Peru, Hong Kong, as well as many places in the USA.

Tensie was an active member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 40 East Main Street, Strasburg, PA., where a service will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 10:30 followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments at 4875 White Oak Road, Paradise, PA, 17562. There will be no burial as her wish was to donate her body to science through the Humanity Gifts Registry. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to New Hope Community Life Ministries, 248 A Maple Avenue, Quarryville, PA, 17566 or to St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Strasburg. Arrangements entrusted to Reynolds Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc., Quarryville, PA. To send an online note of condolence, please visit our website at reynoldsfuneralhome.net.

Comments



“ We are so blessed to have known Mrs Keays and even more thankful that our three children, Sarah Connors, Matthew Connors, and Nicole Connors ALL had the wonderful presence of Mrs Keays in their lives during the years at the Providence Elementary School. We, Our Family, are eternally grateful for this wonderful Woman and Teacher. Bob and Rita Connors (we all shared moments recently in remembrance of Mrs Keays, though by electronic communication with our son, Matthew who lives in Montana)

Robert E Connors - January 16, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Hortense E. Keays.



January 15, 2018 at 04:14 PM



“ I worked with Tense when we were building the Quarryville Library. I found her to be a very intensely warm person and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her. She will be missed. Diane Hastings

Diane Hastings - January 13, 2018 at 11:05 PM



“ Mrs.Keays was my 5th grade teacher. She was a wonderful teacher and lady. Even after I left the 5th grade and I would see Mrs.Keays out she would always hug me and make me feel just as special as she did when I was in her class. She impacted my life so much. She will always have a special place in my heart and I must say Rest In Peace Mrs.Keays until we meet again

Jody England Smeltz - January 13, 2018 at 08:31 PM



“ So sorry to read about Tensie's passing. She was one of the most caring persons we ever knew. Her dedication and love of teaching and for the children she taught or came in contact with was phenomenal. She was indeed a treasure!! Carl and Doris Graver

carl and Doris Graver - January 13, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ So sorry for your loss! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! She was a lovely lady! Know she is at peace .

Chris and Barb Bair - January 13, 2018 at 02:20 PM



“ Only happy memories of Tensie and your dad Bill. We had so much fun with them and isn't that what life is all about. Norman's Mormens was a hoot! Our sincere sympathy to all of you. Gerry & Barb Treadway

Barbara Treadway - January 13, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ Barbara Hazell is following this tribute.

Barbara Hazell - January 12, 2018 at 12:53 PM



“ What a dear friend Tensie was,I was truly blessed.Sending sympathy and love to all the family!

Barbara - January 13, 2018 at 12:03 PM



“ Tensie was one of the most kind ,caring ,loving people I have met in my lifetime .She always looked for the good in everyone she met.She is in my heart forever and is a treasure to all who knew her. She is surely in Heaven now ,looking forward to being with her again.

Barbara - January 13, 2018 at 09:04 PM



“ My Mother, Helena Black Perrin, was a classmate of Tensie's. She always treasured the Saxton Liberty Class of '47 getting together over the Labor Day weekend and your Mother was one of the 'girls' she looked forward to seeing. I lost my Mother 14 years ago to cancer, but can tell you that even the stories she shared with me often resurface to continue to keep her memory fresh. May you be so blessed.

- Cindy Perrin Neville Saxton, PA

Cindy J Neville - January 13, 2018 at 10:47 PM



“ Dear Billy, Sally and Martha - my most heartfelt condolences to all of you. I have such happy memories of the times we spent together as children. My mom and dad cherished their friendship with Tense and Bill. Her memory is a blessing.

Jaynie White Prete - January 14, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ Tense was one of the kindest, nicest people I have ever known. She knew me when I was little in Davenport, IA, as she and Bill were friends of my parents, John and Donna Murphy. We moved to Texas when I was 2 yrs old, but my mom always kept in contact with them.

So, when I ended up in Hershey, PA, for my residency in the late 1980's, she immediately put me in contact with them. Bill and Tense were my surrogate parents during those years. I used to drive down to see them on weekends and spent holidays with them from time to time. Those hugs, conversations, and walks up the road to Amish (and English) neighbors and friends were my favorite memories. I even got to ride in an Amish sleigh one Christmas!

Tense loved teaching, too. She would always tell stories about her students and I always envied those who had had her as their teacher.

I even brought my family up to see her--the last time was in the summer of 2014 for an evening eating dinner in her kitchen I came to love. I went through her meds with her and knew that it was a hard time for her and how quickly life had changed for her and Bill. But those bright brown eyes still sparkled and I can still feel her hugs!

Sally, Billy and Martha--oh, I want you to know how much she loved you and Bill (and the grandkids.) I feel like I know all of you well because of the years I spent with her. She told me so many stories and showed me so many pictures of all of you. Tense was so proud of all of you!

Thank you for allowing me to borrow her (and Bill) for a season of my life.

--Kathy Murphy Hansen

Kathy Murphy Hansen - January 28, 2018 at 04:51 PM