



Bettie Ann Shockley Altfather

July 10, 1926 - December 7, 2010

Bettie Ann Shockley Altfather of Centreville left this life on Tuesday December 7, 2010 surrounded by her family. She bravely endured a progressive illness and never lost her sense of humor. She was 84 years of age.

Mrs. Altfather was born on July 10, 1926 to the late Charles Norwood Shockley and Julia Elizabeth Carey and grew up in Snow Hill, MD. Bettie graduated from Snow Hill High School, Class of 1943, as valedictorian and received the Old Home School prize. She then went on to Western Maryland College where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in 1947. On June 23, 1949 she married Harry Daniel Altfather and resided in Denton for a few years before moving to a farm near Centreville in 1952.

Mrs. Altfather was a school teacher who taught English and Biology at Centreville High School and Earth Science at Queen Anne's County High School. She is well remembered by many former students on whose lives she had a strong impact. During her career she obtained a Master's degree in Education from the University of Maryland by attending summer and evening classes. In 1977 she retired from teaching and was recognized for her hard work by being named Maryland's "Outstanding Earth Science Teacher" by the National Association of Geology Teachers in 1978, the only woman that year to receive such distinction among six states in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Mrs. Altfather enjoyed traveling, volunteering and spending time with family and

friends. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville and the Ruthsburg Community Club.

Mrs. Altfather is survived by her four children and their spouses, Harriet and Tom Todd of Ruthsburg, Elizabeth and David Michael of Severna Park, Kathryn and Al Heller of Marlton, NJ and John and Susan Altfather of Centreville. She had five grandchildren, Bess Michael, Daniel and Charles Altfather, and Alwin and Julia Heller, and was G.G. to one great-grandson, Julian Michael.

A memorial service will be held 11AM on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at All Hallows Episcopal Church in Snow Hill, MD and interment will follow in the church cemetery where Mrs. Altfather will rest near her parents and sister Mary Louise. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 301 South Liberty Street, Centreville, MD 21617; All Hallows Episcopal Church, 109 West Market Street Snow Hill, MD 21863; or Ruthsburg Community Club, 105 Damsontown Road, Queen Anne, MD 21657.

Previous Events

Service

DEC 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

All Hallows Episcopal Church
Snow Hill, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Bettie Ann Shockley Altfather*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Bettie Ann Shockley Altfather*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Bettie Ann Shockley Altfather*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of visiting mom and the farm some years ago when I worked with Betsy. I forgot to thank mom for Betsy, whom I will always remember.
Your family is in our prayers.##imported-begin##jane & Michael##imported-end##*

February 11, 2011 at 05:14 PM



“ Gosh, I just came by Bettie's house today shortly before 3 p.m. with a Christmas card for her and some of her favorite treats from the Amish Farmers Market in Easton. I didn't know she died last week and was looking forward to dropping in on her.

I'm SO GLAD that I dropped in on her shortly before Thanksgiving and had a good visit with her for about an hour and a half. Before I left, I told her I loved her and am so glad I did. Of course, she told me the same before we parted.

I've only known Bettie for a couple years but will always treasure the time we spent together. Yes, she was suffering with the debilitating condition she had but she never complained. And she was such a good listener! When I first cared for her a few wkends in the summer of '09 I was grieving over the fairly recent deaths of both my parents, who died 7 months apart, and she was so consoling. She told me about taking care of both her mother and her husband during their illnesses. She was very easy to be around. She was gracious and appreciative. She LOVED her home and children and was very thankful that she was able to be at home during her illness. I don't think she ever took this for granted!

Harriet, I left a brief note for you at your mom's house with my ph. number this afternoon because I thought Bettie might be in the hospital. But I came home and saw her obituary in the Star Democrat....so no need to call me, my dear. Just enjoy your family and friends who'll, no doubt, be at your mom's farm in the coming days. I know it would make Bettie happy to know you're all gathered there together. She would want you to be in out of this howling wind and huddled around a pot of tea with some tasty treats within reach. Love to you all...I've really enjoyed getting to know you these past couple years. Fondly, Liz Van Deerlin###imported-begin##Liz Van Deerlin###imported-end##

December 14, 2010 at 08:07 PM



“ Deepest apologies for not being able to celebrate her going home to be with the Lord Jesus with the rest of the family, but I do have WONDERFUL memories with her. She is truly a good friend. I learned alot from her the time that I spent with her. Know this that all things work together for the good to them who love the Lord, who are the called according to his purpose Romans 8:28. She truly belong to Jesus. She made Jesus Lord and Savior and was baptize in His Spirit and water. She said that was the best experience ever in her life with God. To the family she love so much seek Jesus in this time she prayed nightly for all of you. May God continue to Bless and strentghen you###imported-begin##Vivian Lawrence###imported-end##

December 13, 2010 at 12:36 PM



“ So sorry she has passed. I loved her. She and your Dad were so kind to me. Both are together now. May they rest in peace.###imported-begin##Dee Walls###imported-end##

December 13, 2010 at 11:45 AM



“ To all the Altfather Family Members,
I extend to you my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences. I pray that God will comfort and bless each of you at the passing of your dear and beloved mother.
As one of your mom’s former QACHS students, I’ll always remember your mom’s passion for helping her students to understand and appreciate the value of learning by looking at the world beyond the textbook and classroom. As I reflect on the experience of having your mom as my teacher, I can attest that your mom’s enthusiasm and caring both in and out of the classroom, truly made a difference in my life... and for that I’ll always be grateful.
God Bless, Dr. Robert D. Pratt###imported-begin###Dr. Robert D. Pratt###imported-end###

December 12, 2010 at 05:19 PM



“ Dear John, Susan, and family: Mrs. Altfather was indeed an inspirational teacher, a valued community member, and a loving parent.
Having walked in your shoes, I understand the sadness and pain associated with the loss of one's dear mother. Although she is no longer on this earth, she is forever in your hearts, and in the hearts of those who knew her; therefore, her legacy lives on. If I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me.
With love,
Jane and family###imported-begin###Jane Austin LaBrie###imported-end###

December 12, 2010 at 03:43 PM



“ To the Altfather family- Tina the last time I saw you at the class of 73 reunion I told you your mother was one of my favorite teachers. I have a vast rock collection from all over the world because of her Earth Science class and her stories of your cross country trip instilled great interest in me. I also made one of those trips with my two younger children in 1993, collecting rocks and gems from MD to Montana. I am now working on the grandchildren, getting them interested in fossil hunting, geology and rocks, just as Mrs. Altfather's Earth Science class had me. In the latest trip we met the young paleontologist who found the mummified dinosaur named "Dakota" in ND. The legacy of interest in science and geology Mrs. Altfather instilled in her students will always live on. She was a terrific teacher and person. I know you will miss her greatly. My prayers are with each of you.##imported-begin##Kathy Abey##imported-end##

December 10, 2010 at 08:57 PM



“ To Mrs. Altfather's family: The Centreville High School of 1966 expresses their deepest sympathy and prayers to you at this time in the loss of your mother. She surely was a legacy to all of us and will never be forgotten. She was a lady full of grace and respect. God Bless each one of your.##imported-begin##Centreville High School Class of 1966##imported-end##

December 10, 2010 at 02:06 PM



“ Mrs. Altfather was a great role model for many of us who grew up in QAC, both professionally & personally. She was a wise & classy lady, and made our community a better place by sharing her gifts so generously. To all her loving family... You gave her much TLC these past few years, & that surely was a joy & comfort for her. Peace be with you all.##imported-begin##Laura Kim Wolff Maurey##imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 01:32 PM



“ To the Altfather family: Mrs. Altfather will always be a legacy at Centreville High School. What good old days they were and we surely respected our teachers and they did the same to the students. She loved her teaching career and I can remember the first time we had to dissect a frog. Boy, that was a time the class will never forget. She loved her family and had many friends that will never forget her. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to you at this time. God will give you the love and strength to face each new day with joy, love and peace. Your mother will always be a part of my life and I am sure many, many, others. Gene and Lynda Palmatary, 221 Hope Road, Centreville, Md.##imported-begin##Lynda Palmatary##imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 09:09 AM



“ Altfather Family- I had Mrs. Altfather as a 9th grade Earth Science teacher back in the early 70's. Susan- I believe you were in that class and at that time, I am sure you never expected her to become your mother-in-law. She was a great teacher. May you find strength in the wonderful memories you have to help you cope with your loss during the tough days ahead.
Jane Anthony##imported-begin##JANE Anthony##imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 08:04 AM



“ Dear John, Susan & Boys; The Chlada family sends our deepest sympathy to you all. My Dad (Jim Hoyle) once met John's Mother on one of his trips to Alaska. They shared their Centreville stories and later the fact that our daughter Sarah babysat for your boys, and that I taught the boys in the computer lab at CES. My Dad found your mom a most engaging and warm person. We trust your memories will help sustain you through the challenging days ahead. All the best, John, Peg, Sarah and Carolynn Chlada##imported-begin##Peg and John Chlada##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 09:13 PM