



Dorothy Lee Sawyer

November 27, 1931 - December 7, 2017

Long-time Easton, MD, and Seaford, DE, resident Dorothy “Dottie” Lee Sawyer died on December 7, 2017.

Dorothy, daughter of Aubrey McDonald Lee and Eugenia Harris Lee, was born November 27, 1931, in Laramie WY. She moved to Washington, DC, during her junior year of high school. On the day she headed east, she picked up a 5 lb granite rock from the Rocky Mountains and kept it for the entirety of her life, a simple reminder of her Wyoming birthplace.

While completing an English degree at American University, Dottie married Thomas Knowlton Sawyer in 1952. She was the anchor for the nascent biologist who worked all day at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, then studied for a MSc. most of the night. In 1964, towing a brood of three young children, Dottie moved to Easton when Tom took a job at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries’ Oxford Laboratory. While she never lost her affection for the Rockies, the Chesapeake Bay became a close second. She loved crabbing, watching Canada geese and canvasbacks, and catching rockfish and blues, but never learned to like an oyster.

Dottie worked as a secretary at the Coca Cola Bottling Company, Oxford Lab, and Presbyterian Church of Easton. That church was an important part of her life. She sang in the Chancel Choir, was an Ordained Elder, and remained an

active member for 40 years. When Tom retired, husband and wife formed Rescon Associates, Inc., a non-profit research environmental company. Together they worked and travelled until the point her health began to decline. In 2002, Tom and Dottie moved into Methodist Manor House in Seaford, DE.

Dorothy Sawyer lived her life by a high moral code. She was the consummate supporter of her husband and his career, and a ceaseless role model to her children and grandchildren, most of whom followed a bumpy road into adulthood until, one by one, they started to become the kind of people she knew they could be. Friends and family remember the special moments-- dinners of steamed crabs, roast goose, or stuffed rockfish; her garden, judiciously nurtured through spring and summer; her love of family holidays and its traditions; and the joy she took watching the family she treasured from her seat in the choir – Tom usually asleep, oldest daughter, Pat, studiously following the sermon, son, Robert, always fidgeting in the pew, and the youngest, Barbara, quiet and precious. Dorothy Lee Sawyer is again looking over her loved ones, only now from a higher perch.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents and husband of 62 years. She leaves behind her children, Patricia Crowder, Robert Sawyer, and Barbara Starkey; grandchildren Kelley Callaghan, Kendall Allen, Christen Sawyer, and Ethan Starkey; and great-granddaughter, Savana Turner.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on January 9 of 2018, at the Presbyterian Church of Easton.

Tribute Wall



“ Dorothy Lee Sawyer

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Dorothy Lee Sawyer

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Dorothy Lee Sawyer

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Valerie Wheatley lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Lee Sawyer



Valerie Wheatley - December 15, 2017 at 05:36 AM



Barbara you are in my thoughts and prayers. Hugs

Valerie Wheatley - December 15, 2017 at 05:37 AM



“ *Tim & Laura Bishop lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Lee Sawyer*



Tim & Laura Bishop - December 14, 2017 at 11:52 PM



PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY, SO SORRY TO HEAR THIS.

Tim & Laura Bishop - December 14, 2017 at 11:53 PM

PA

“ *If I was ever going to pick a person in all of my life's dealings that was just a pretty perfect human being, it would be Mrs. Sawyer. I think she came down from heaven to walk among regular folks and now she can go back to heaven with the rest of the angels! <3 God bless her every second.*

Priscilla Merrill Agari - December 14, 2017 at 11:30 PM

LS

“ *My deepest condolences to Pat, Rob and Barbara. This is a lady that I also called mom. I always welcome around her. I gave her a toy Boston Terrier that looked like it was breathing and she adored that dog. It always laid on her bed and when it was bed time the aides would just have to show her the dog when they were taking off and she knew it was time for bed. When I first gave it to her, most of the aides had took a second look because they thought it was real. That was the BEST gift that I gave mo.*

Larry Fike sr - December 08, 2017 at 03:29 PM