



Theresa Kessinger

July 15, 1950 - March 20, 2020

Theresa Kessinger “Mrs. Kessinger” of Stevensville, MD, died on Friday, March 20, 2020, at her home. She was 69.

Born on July 15, 1950, in Bristol, PA, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Michael O’Neill, Sr., and Leona Catherine Briar O’Neill. She graduated from Salisbury University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree and worked as a 3rd and 4th grade teacher with the Kent Island Elementary, Bayside Elementary, and Matapeake Elementary Schools in Queen Anne’s County, Maryland. She was a loving, compassionate, and dedicated teacher to her students and mentor to her fellow teachers.

On July 15, 1980, she married Russell B. Kessinger, who predeceased her in 1998.

Theresa enjoyed gardening, photography, and her cats. She loved teaching and taught over three generations of children throughout her career, in her words “that’s when I knew I needed to retire.” She retired in 2012.

She is survived by three sisters, Kathleen O’Neill of Annapolis, MD, Mary Luike of Betterton, MD, and RuthAnn O’Neill, of Chestertown, MD; a brother, Thomas O’Neill of Levittown, PA; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Joseph O’Neill, Jr., in 2005.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to the Chesapeake Cats and Dogs Animal Rescue in Queenstown, MD.

Tribute Wall



“ Theresa Kessinger

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Theresa Kessinger

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Theresa Kessinger

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Janet E Pauls lit a candle in memory of Theresa Kessinger



Janet E Pauls - April 06, 2020 at 09:33 AM



“ Theresa was a dedicated, nurturing, creative teacher. I was so lucky to have taught with Theresa at Bayside in 3rd and 4th grades. She was such a caring person. Theresa will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

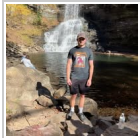
Robin Scherer - April 05, 2020 at 07:32 PM



Theresa Griebel

“ I worked with Theresa at Bayside Elementary. I enjoyed our chats and your smile Theresa.
Rest In Peace old friend 🙏

Theresa Griebel - April 05, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ As a math psecialist I worked with Theresa at Matapeake Elementary. She was always hard working,positive and willing to try anything I suggested. Her students always came first. She will be missed by all

Kathleen Fowler - April 05, 2020 at 05:30 PM

DT

“ I taught with Theresa for many years. She took many of us under her wings and guided us into the teachers we have become. She loved her students and was a master teacher. She will be missed!

Debbie Scott Tomassoni - April 05, 2020 at 04:41 PM

KH

“ Theresa was so dedicated to her students. I have so much respect for her.

Kathy Hildebrand - April 05, 2020 at 04:37 PM

CW

“ I had Mrs. Kessinger in 3rd grade and I will always remember her kindness, even after so many years it was always great to run in to her around town. My prayers go out to her family and loved ones



Cherie Washington - March 30, 2020 at 11:13 PM

EC

“ *Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of Theresa Kessinger*



Eastern Shore Dental Care - March 26, 2020 at 02:27 PM

KO

“ *Kari Oulahyane lit a candle in memory of Theresa Kessinger*



Kari Oulahyane - March 25, 2020 at 07:28 PM

MD

“ *Theresa was a beloved teacher and friend to many. She will be remembered for her dedication to the children of Kent Island and her willingness to mentor other teachers. Theresa lived around the corner from me for many years and we worked together as well. She was a kind and gentle person who will be missed. My sympathy to the family.*

Maureen Doyle - March 23, 2020 at 10:03 PM

MT

“ *Mrs. Kessinger was my 3rd grade teacher. She also lived in the same street with me. She was such a wonderful caring person. I would walk up to her house as a kid and help with the gardening. She will be missed.*

Mandy Tomardy - March 23, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ Ms. Kessinger was my daughter's 4th grade teacher. She was the one who looked out for her when she noticed her needing extra help in math. Ms Kessinger didn't hesitate to be her advocate. She was a wonderful, dedicated teacher.

Laura Hurlebaus - March 23, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ Theresa touched the lives of so many people, and I am one of them. We worked at BES for many years together and spent a great deal of time talking about school and our cats. She was a helpful "mentor" to me because of her dedication and love to her students. She had that same dedication and love for her pets. There were so many stories! Theresa was a very pleasant, kind, and devoted lady, who although will be missed, will not be forgotten.



Joanne Beemiller - March 23, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ Condolences to the family. Theresa was such a help to me when I first started teaching at KIES. Her help & generosity will never be forgotten.



Elizabeth Hausburg - March 23, 2020 at 10:36 AM

PT

“ Mrs. Kessinger You Touched More Lives than I Think You Ever Knew❤️
Thank You For So Much Shared Knowledge and Love for So Many of Our Children here on Kent Island over the years in your Classroom💕
Rest With The Other Angels🙏💕

patricia Trent - March 23, 2020 at 08:12 AM

DK

“ Donna Kaufman lit a candle in memory of Theresa Kessinger



Donna Kaufman - March 22, 2020 at 02:36 PM

SB

“ Theresa was an absolute joy to know. Whenever I needed her advice in teaching, I would walk down to her classroom, and she'd always be playing music by Enya. I have so much love in my heart for her as a person, a loving pet owner, and a mentor colleague.
RIP Theresa...condolences to her family.

Sharon Burak - March 22, 2020 at 02:32 PM

LL

“ A special and caring friend, in our hearts forever. We will remember her love of gardening, birds, and sunsets. Her compassion and dedication to learning was a gift to so many lives. We will treasure our memories of our times together.
Lynn and John Ludwig



Lynn Ludwig - March 22, 2020 at 01:40 PM

MC

“ I was ahead of Theresa at Centreville High School but renewed our acquaintance many years ago when she was a team teacher with my cousin at a Kent Island Elementary School. A very caring teacher looking to do her best for her students. *Christine Massey Collier*

Margaret Christine Massey Collier - March 21, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ One of the most caring people in my life and proud to have the privilege of calling, “Aunt Theresa”. She loved photos and sharing memories. Her favorite season was spring; she spent hours in her garden. She was a beautiful person and will be missed tremendously.

Jennifer O'Neill - March 20, 2020 at 06:53 PM

KS

She was a beautiful soul! Could bring a smile to anyone. She will be deeply missed! Sending so much love to you and your family.

Kelly Seaman - March 21, 2020 at 11:29 AM