



Virginia H. "Cookie" Kliever

January 15, 1944 - June 17, 2008

Cookie Kliever of Worton, MD peacefully passed away on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at the Chester River Hospital Center in Chestertown, MD from complications from colon cancer. She was 64.

Born on January 15, 1944, as Virginia Allen Harper, she always will be remembered as "Cookie" after the Philadelphia pub which her parents frequented, including the night of her conception.

She is the daughter of the late Richard M.H. Harper, Jr. and the late Anne Bullivant Steere. Cookie is a 1962 graduate of Beaver Country Day School and received a degree from Pine Manor College in 1964. Both schools are located in Massachusetts near her home town of Milton.

Cookie and her lifetime friend, Wende Kernan Kromer, adventured to Palo Alto, California after her graduation from Pine Manor. She worked as a librarian at Stanford Law School and later as an assistant to a professor at the Stanford Medical School. She met Doug, her husband of 42 years, at the law school. They were married on June 18, 1966, and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1967.

Before settling full time in December of 2005 at their house in Worton, Swallow Point, which Doug and Cookie acquired in 1978, Cookie worked as a

real estate agent, house renovator and the Director of Admissions at Capital Hill Day School. Throughout the 30 years of dual DC and Kent County residency, Cookie pursued her love of the arts and the crafts—including painting, quilting, needlepoint, photography and finally the art of designing and making jewelry by the precious metals clay (PMC) method. She was among the first artists in the Mid-Atlantic States to be certified as a PMC instructor and introduced many others to the art. She was one of the founders and the first President of the regional PMC Guild. She was a prolific designer and producer of unique, innovative PMC jewelry. Cookie also delighted in introducing her grandchildren, Alex and Cameron, to the arts and crafts.

She loved horses and established Mattakees Farm in 1990. Cookie had show jumpers, driving horses, event horses and just plain pets. One of her favorites, a plucky little driving horse aptly named True Grit, was diagnosed with untreatable cancer in the middle of a season in which he was leading the competition to represent the United States in the World Driving Championships in France.

And true grit is what Cookie showed when she was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer. Knowing that advanced colon cancer cannot be cured but only controlled, she underwent three rounds of intensive chemotherapy, accompanied by periodic, sometimes serious side effects, with determination, perseverance and humor. She did not limit herself to her own battle. Cookie empathized with other patients—implored them to remember that there are no odds in cancer, that each case is unique, and that beating this insidious disease requires belief that it can be controlled, force of will and the support and love of family and friends. Each course of treatment drove the disease into remission for a period. She was able to enjoy being a grandmother, an artist (with two trips full of camaraderie to the Tucson International Gem Show), a proud owner of a shiny new red HHR and a friend. Ultimately, the disease bested Cookie, but it was not for lack of her positive spirit.

Cookie is survived by her step father, Bruce M. Steere; her husband Doug; two sons, Eric and his wife Tracy Minter and Chris and his wife Lisa and their children Alex and Cameron; two brothers, Richard Harper and Stuart Harper; three sisters, Patricia Flint, Grace Steere, and Lucy Steere; her faithful companion Tilda; and her many friends who provided support, encouragement and prayers during her struggle.

A remembrance service will be held Friday, August 1, 2008 at 2 pm at the Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD. A Celebration of Cookie's Life will be held after the service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the IOncology Foundation, 8221 Teal Drive, Suite 302, Easton, Maryland 02061. The Foundation, of which Cookie's oncologist is a principal, promotes fundamental changes in public and medical policy to allow the development of a wider range of treatment options to be applied by oncologists in recognition of the fact that no cancer, including colon cancer, is a single disease and that cancer afflicts each individual differently. Cookie firmly believed that such new approaches could extend and improve the quality of life of future cancer victims.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Virginia H. "Cookie" Kliever*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - June 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Virginia H. "Cookie" Kliever*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Virginia H. "Cookie" Kliever*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Virginia H. "Cookie" Kliever*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Doug,
So sorry to here of Cookies passing. She was a very remarkable
women to all that new her. We all share your sadness!
Ed Tobin##imported-begin##Ed Tobin##imported-end##*

August 07, 2008 at 12:25 PM



“ I just wanted to say that Cookie was such an amazing woman who touched many lives, including members of my family. It was Cookie who gave opportunity to me. She had a gift with her love of horses and I will fondly remember her and Mattakees. God Bless and rest in piece Cookie.##imported-begin##Darby Holden##imported-end##

July 01, 2008 at 05:23 PM



“ Dear Doug and family,

Both Connie and I are saddened to learn of the recent death of Cookie. We saw her about two years ago on a beautiful winter day while walking along the farmers' line at the Eastern Market. I believe she was visiting one of yours sons who lives on Capitol Hill with his family. I heard the voice and said to Connie that has got to be Cookie Kliever. Sure enough it was. It has been many years since we have seen you and your sons. We remember fondly our days at the Day School. How long ago that was. All of us worked hard to give CHDS a firm foundation. I think we succeeded. The school today is a far cry from what it was in the 1970's. Connie and I hope you can find comfort and joy in remembering the good times you all had. Cookie, you, Eric, and Chris are fondly remebered.

Joe Citro##imported-begin##joe citro##imported-end##

June 26, 2008 at 06:30 PM