



Phyllis Ann Straight

April 25, 1930 - October 31, 2017

Phyllis Ann Smallwood Straight, 87, recently of Albany, NY died peacefully after a long illness. Born April 25, 1930 to Charles and Delores (VanValkenburg) Smallwood in Lansing, MI, she graduated from Charlotte High School (1948), then from the University of Michigan (1951) with a Bachelor's degree in education, and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. She taught elementary school in Colorado after graduation then married Robert C. Straight of Flint, MI on November 30, 1952. They lived briefly in Syracuse as their children were born then settled in Norwich, NY to raise their family.

Phyllis enjoyed her teaching career at Perry Browne School in Norwich until her retirement, while earning two Master's degrees. She completed a year as an exchange teacher in Sydney, Australia, making lifelong friends she entertained frequently. She was involved with the Norwich Hospital Auxiliary and later the Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Charlotte. Known for her gardening skill, she owned and operated The Plant Place, specializing in African violets and orchids.

She had a passion for travel, both domestic and foreign, and with a special fondness for France. Phyllis travelled to China, New Zealand, Fiji, Tasmania, Tahiti, Banff, Russia, the Netherlands, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Stratford Ontario, and completed the Grand Tour of Europe. Domestic travel included Alaska; Arizona; Maine; Chautauqua, Florida; Asheville; New York City;

Washington, DC; Los Angeles; San Francisco; and Philadelphia, but always returning to her favorite vacation spot in Charlevoix, MI.

Phyllis is survived by her children, Shelley, Susan (Coburn) and Robert, and her beloved cat Karly. She was a proud aunt to Cathy, Bill, Steve, and Andy Hazel. She was a grandmother of three, Ashley, Erik, and Lauren. Phyllis was preceded in death by her sister, Carolyn Hazel (Jack Hazel surviving); her parents Charles and Delores Smallwood, and Robert Straight.

Funeral services will be private with no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Charlotte Community Library or the Hayes Green Beach Hospital Auxiliary. Friends and family are invited to share memories of Phyllis on her tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Hi Shelley and family. I am so sorry for your loss. I know your Mom was a special person and that you were very close. My thoughts are with you and your family. May she rest in peace. Nancy Walser

Nancy Walser - November 07, 2017 at 04:37 PM