



Shirley Louise French

DEC 6, 1942 - NOV 14, 2024



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Shirley Louise French December 6, 1942 – November 14, 2024

Passed away after a long illness at Atrium Health Cabarrus, North Carolina.

In her long and interesting life Shirley travelled extensively and had a wide circle of family, step family, friends and acquaintances. She lived in several states including New Hampshire, Colorado, Texas, Michigan, Florida, and in Germany where her two first sons were born. She enjoyed spending summers for many years at the family camps on Lake Massasecum in Bradford, NH, and in her later years lived near her son James in Stanfield, NC. She was cared for solely by her son James and his wife Kimberly Crabtree in her later years of declining health until she passed away.

Educated at Northfield Mount Herman School a college-preparatory school in Gill, MA. She attended the University of NH in Durham, NH, where she met her first husband, Allen Crabtree. Later, when the newly married couple was living in Denver, Colorado, she received her BA degree at the University of Colorado. Received her RN from Lansing Community College in Michigan.

Worked at the Epsom Manor as a RN specializing in care of the elderly.

Shirley was the adopted daughter of J. Fred and Florence French of Manchester, NH. Shirley was able to reconnect with her birth family and in her later life adopted their Kingsbury family name.

She is survived by her sons James I. Crabtree (Kimberly Crabtree) of Stanfield, NC and Russell Voss (Aimee Voss) of Gray, ME, and her first husband Allen F. Crabtree III of Sebago, ME. Grandchildren Abigale Crabtree of Stanfield, NC, James Ian Crabtree Jr of Stanfield NC and Hazel Voss of Gray, ME.



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Predeceased by her adopted parents, her son Allen F Crabtree IV of Oakland, CA, second husband Keith Voss of Michigan, and third husband David Stanbro of Satalite Beach, FL.

A private funeral is planned for family at a later date, and she will be interred at the French family cemetery in Manchester, NH.

Donations in Shirley's memory may be given to the Crabtree Family.



Tribute Wall

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Celia Rice posted:

I met Shirley as a Freshman at Northfield, a unique experience. 14 years old and away from home for the first time. I was surprised years later to find that we both owned cottages on Massasecum Lake. I especially remember the hilarious evenings playing cards on her porch! CeCe Rice

November 16 at 8:09 AM



Paul Sheldon December 16 at 11:03 AM

Shirley was my life-long friend and my first girlfriend. I met Shirley on a blind date one Saturday in the fall of 1956 when I was a 13-year-old freshman at Mount Hermon School and she was a freshman at our sister school, Northfield School, on the other side of the Connecticut River. I think the activity was to attend a school football game or maybe the weekly movie in the evening. The only means of communication was by letter, and eventually we must have exchanged many dozens of letters. This was a time of innocence – the girls arrived by school bus and returned to Northfield by bus. Everyone was accounted for. The big excitement was my first 'real' kiss with Shirley a few weeks later. We could talk comfortably about the challenges of school and friendships. After graduation we continued to keep in touch via regular birthday and Christmas cards and occasional phone calls and meetings in person. We supported (and commiserated with) one another over the adventures of life we each experienced in the coming years. I particularly remember visiting Shirley at the family cabin on Lake Massasecum and getting together at school reunions. She flew from Florida particularly to attend my wedding in 2005. I feel I have lost a real friend and will miss her.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Shirley by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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