



Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles

July 1, 2024

Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles, 87, joined her family in heaven on July 1, 2024. She was born to Anthony Reigner Fretz and Margaret Catherine Flanagan Fretz and had two older sisters, Margaret (Peggy) Antionette and Patricia Jean. A Carolina girl through and through, she graduated from Graham High School in 1954 and East Carolina College (University) in 1958. She taught mathematics in Danville, Virginia, then moved to Portsmouth, Virginia, where she met the love of her life, William "Bill" Knowles.

Suzanne taught at Wilson and Deep Creek High Schools before transferring to Western Branch Jr High (Middle School), where she taught for 22 years. While at Western Branch, she served as the Math Department Chair and sponsor of the National Junior Honor Society. Working with students brought her great joy. Suzanne often ran into former students locally and internationally. Many remember her as incredibly kind and one of their favorite math teachers. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society for educators. She was Teacher of the Year for Western Branch Jr High.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 61 years, Bill Knowles, her son Patrick (Melissa), her granddaughter Anna, and her daughter Susan (Donald). Suzanne stayed close to her nieces Anne Murray and Suzanne Stevens and their children, as well as her sister-in-law June Fletcher, her husband Jack,

and their children.

Suzanne leaves a legacy of limitless compassion and kindness that extended to all people and animals. No person or animal was invisible to her. She recognized the good in everyone and never missed an opportunity to thank someone for a good deed, send a hand-written thank you note or bring a bouquet of flowers from their beautiful backyard.

She was an active member of her community. She volunteered at Maryview Hospital and Churchland Baptist Church and was a member of several garden clubs. She loved music and sang in the Norfolk and Dick Barnes Chorale.

She traveled all over the country and world with Bill, but her favorite place was home, where she could tend to her family, pets, and backyard flowers. She had a strong faith and devotion to God. She loved painting, sewing and was an amazing cook. Sue and Bill enjoyed a full life together, attending local sports events, golfing, fishing and going to dinner every Friday night with friends at local restaurants. They were regulars at the Portsmouth YMCA for decades. She had an incredible gift of hospitality, making others feel comfortable and loved. The impact she had on others as a wife, mother, sister, friend and teacher is immeasurable.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Autumn Care of Portsmouth for their loving, skilled caregiving and support.

The family will receive visitors at Loving Funeral Home on Friday, July 5, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at 11 a.m. in Churchland Baptist Church, with Dr. Dan Koger officiating. The interment will be private. Donations can be made to Churchland Baptist Church or to the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Celebration of Life

JUL 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Churchland Baptist Church
3031 Churchland Blvd
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall

FC

“ Fletcher & I are thinking of you with heartfelt sympathy. May you find comfort in knowing that we share your sorrow as Suzanne was a guiding light in education & loved by all the students she taught at WWHS.

Fletcher & Barbara Carson

Fletcher William Carson - July 22, 2024 at 09:20 AM

JT

“ Sue and I were co-workers at Western Branch Jr. High then Middle School for many years. When I had only been there for about a year she gave me a baby shower in her home which really blessed me. She was a wonderful teacher, loved by all. Heaven surely has another angel. My deepest sympathy to the family. Jean Thompson

Jean Thompson - July 05, 2024 at 08:56 PM

DW

“ It was a great honor to know Sue Knowles. She was wonderful wife, a great mother, a true friend, and a master teacher. I will miss her very much. Have a wonderful time in Heaven.

David Willett

David Willett - July 05, 2024 at 05:24 PM

GA

“ Bill,
Mom always considered you and Sue among her best friends, and absolutely loved those Friday night dinners with ya'll and the gang. She was very appreciative of all you did for her over the years and shared some of the phone conversations she had with Sue. Bill, you and Sue really picked her up in her later years. God has welcomed another angel. Our prayers for all of you, Greg and Chris Abbott

Greg & Chris Abbott - July 04, 2024 at 07:32 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles.



July 03, 2024 at 08:01 PM

MB

“ Much love, Mike, Julie and Jack Britt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles.

Much love, Mike, Julie and Jack Britt - July 03, 2024 at 08:01 PM

DJ

“ As one of Bill Knowles Football players and one of Sues former students at Deep Creek High School
I want to express my sincere condolences to Bill Knowles and his family! I am so sorry for your loss Bill, Sue is in Gods hands now !!!

Dennis Ervin Johnson - July 03, 2024 at 05:50 PM

DJ

Dennis Ervin Johnson#22

Dennis Ervin Johnson - July 03, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles.*



July 03, 2024 at 02:33 PM

BC

“ *I lived down the street from the Knowles on Apache Rd for years. I babysat their kids. Sue and Bill Knowles were always very nice people. My heart goes out to the family.*

Beth Carmichael - July 03, 2024 at 01:51 PM

BK

“ *Bill Sue's death is a community wide sadness. She was a wonderful woman and will be mourned by many.*

You and your family have my deepest sympathy.

May she rest in eternal peace.

Bernie Kirsch - July 03, 2024 at 01:18 PM

FF

“ From Daniella & My Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Suzanne F. "Sue" Knowles.



From Daniella & My Family - July 03, 2024 at 12:15 PM



“ Dear Mr. Knowles, Susan and Pat: I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful lady, neighbor, and teacher. She was a pillar of our community. She will be so missed.



Laura A. Thornton

Laura Thornton - July 03, 2024 at 11:50 AM

GC

“ I know what Bill is going through, but know that we are all grateful to God for sharing her with us

George "Butch" Cook - July 03, 2024 at 07:16 AM

NH

“ I just loved her!! We go back a long way. She will be greatly missed.
Tom & Norma Hoddinott

Norma Hoddinott - July 02, 2024 at 05:25 PM