

Mrs. Delores Sittig Devilbiss

Delores Sittig Devilbiss, 96, of Frederick, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

She was the daughter of the late William Sittig and Catherine Conrad Sittig; and the widow of John Austin Devilbiss. She was also preceded in death by her two older brothers, William Elmer Sittig and Earl Ellsworth Sittig.

Delores was born in Borden's Shaft, near Frostburg, on Dec. 30, 1913. Shortly after her father died in 1918, her mother moved with Delores and her two older brothers to Frederick. Delores graduated from Frederick High School in 1931, majoring in the commercial (business) curriculum. Later on, she took courses at Frederick Community College.



In 1939, Delores married John Austin Devilbiss of Frederick. She worked as a receptionist and secretary for the Maryland School for the Deaf in the 1930s and 1940s, when Dr. Ignatius Bjorlee was the MSD superintendent. She later worked as a part-time bookkeeper at the Frederick Lumber and Supply Co., where her husband was employed.

In 1964, after her husband's sudden death, Delores went to work for Frederick County Public Schools, from which she retired in 1984, at the age of 70. During her tenure at Frederick County Public Schools, she was the secretary to the principal at South Frederick Elementary School and also worked as the secretary for the Evening High School. Delores served for many years on the board of directors of FERKO, the FCPS credit union.

Delores was a longtime member of Frederick Presbyterian Church. She loved children and served as a Sunday school teacher in the nursery through elementary school-age classes. She liked music and was a member of the Handbell Choir. She participated in many Bible study groups over the years and enjoyed creating several hand-sewn banners for the church sanctuary. In her later years, she was a member of Frederick Presbyterian's Primetimers group.

Delores was a longtime community volunteer for the Frederick Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She and Mrs. Cornelia Bjorlee started Girl Scout Troop 1 for the girls at the Maryland School for the Deaf during the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s, Delores served as an adult advisor for Bethel 28, International Order of Job's Daughters and also began The Activity Corner, where neighborhood children could participate in after-school reading, arts and crafts, and many other activities. She loved exercise walking and won two gold medals for this event in the Maryland Senior Olympics.

Delores's original knit and crochet creations, as well as her handmade clothing and ceramics, candies and cakes, often appeared as gifts for special occasions for family and friends. She loved collecting teddy bears. Her favorite teddy bear was Nutmeg, who started her collection in 1986. Her favorite colors were blue and white and her favorite food was chocolate candy, which she always shared.

More recently, Delores was an active participant in the Daybreak Adult Day Services program. She was a member of the Daybreak Ringers and Singers groups and the bowling team. She enjoyed arts and crafts, music, puzzles and games, especially bingo. She enjoyed going shopping, going out to eat and going to the movies with friends. She loved her family deeply and always looked forward to the annual family vacation in Williamsburg, Va. Delores was a sweet spirit with a strong and loving heart. She will be fondly remembered and missed by many whose lives she touched, especially her friends in her Secret Pal group.

Delores is survived by two daughters, Dr. Connie Devilbiss and Dr. Bonnie Devilbiss, both of Frederick; one niece, Darlene Van Pelt and husband, Thomas E., of Frederick; three nephews, J. Clark Devilbiss and wife, Patricia, of Oceanside, Calif., James V. Devilbiss and wife, Elizabeth, of Frederick, and William E. Sittig Jr. and wife, Karen, of Norfolk, Va.; and also former sister-in-law, Colleen Sittig Remsberg of Frederick. Her great-nieces and great-nephews are Beth Waskey and husband, Bill, of Middletown, Thomas W. Van Pelt and wife, Paula, of Frederick, Becky Bostian and husband, Kyle, of Frederick, Cheryl Lynn Bruce and husband, Jay, of Redondo Beach, Calif., Mark Devilbiss and wife, Chris, of Temecula, Calif., Laura Lee Berenger and husband, Hugh, of San Clemente, Calif., Jamie Halley and husband, Rob, of Frederick, Kate Polhill and husband, John, of Bloomsburg, Pa., Dawn Mendez and husband, Chris, of Apex, N.C., and Amanda Burns and husband, Matt, of Virginia Beach, Va. Her great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews are Catherine Waskey of Middletown, Piper Van Pelt and Reagan Van Pelt of Frederick, Rachael Bostian and Sophia Bostian of Frederick, Jessica Devilbiss of Temecula, Calif., Beau Berenger and wife, Chelsea, of Aliso Viejo, Calif., Ian Berenger of San Clemente, Calif., Kassie Halley and Shannon Halley of Frederick, Madeline Polhill and Joseph Polhill of Bloomsburg, Pa., Ava Mendez, Owen Mendez and Cecilia Mendez of Apex, N.C.; and Lily Burns of Virginia Beach, Va. Her great-great-great-nephew is Jack Alan Berenger of Aliso Viejo, Calif.

Friends will be received from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, and from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, at Keeney and Basford, P.A., Funeral Home, 106 E. Church St., Frederick. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, in the Etchison Memorial Chapel of the funeral home. The Rev. Dr. Eric Myers of the Frederick Presbyterian Church will officiate. Interment will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick.

Condolences may be shared with the family at KeeneyBasford.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.