



Barbara Bartels Mahon

Barbara Bartels Mahon, 81, formerly of Lancaster, died at home in Williamstown, Massachusetts on Friday, December 26. Born in Hackensack, New Jersey to Richard W. Bartels and Lucinda Baltz Bartels on September 15, 1927, she attended public schools in Westwood, New Jersey and in 1949 received a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, where she was a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority. She moved with her husband's job at Armstrong World Industries: after a brief period in Lancaster, they moved to Fulton, New York in 1951 and back to Lancaster in 1963. Mrs. Mahon worked until 1988 as a speech pathologist for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, first in the schools of Penn Manor and, then, for many years, in the Hempfield school district.

In Lancaster, she attended St. Paul's Episcopal in Manheim and was later a founding member of St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Hempfield. She moved to Massachusetts in August 2006 to live with her son and his family.

Barbara Mahon was an enthusiastic and active volunteer, especially after retirement. While living in Fulton, NY, she helped at a hospital for children with cerebral palsy and later served as president of the public-school parent-teacher association. In Lancaster, she served her beloved St. Edward's Church in various capacities. After retirement, she also counseled AIDS patients and their surviving children, served as a mentor through the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, helped teach handicapped children to swim, taught English as a second language, brought meals to shut-ins, and built dollhouses to be sold at charity auctions. In 1992 she was named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster, for a reading and discussion program called 'Happy Talk' she created for young adults. That same year, she won Honorable Mention for a Jefferson Award by WGAL-TV. She was an avid bridge player and loved cats, dogs, and horses.

Her brother, Richard Bartels, died in 1988 and her husband of 53 years, James E. Mahon, died on January 30, 2003. She is survived by two daughters, Maryellen Simcoe (Steven) of Baltimore, Maryland and Patricia Anderson (David B.) of San Francisco, California, as well as a son, James E. Mahon, Jr. (Paula Consolini), of Williamstown, and four grandchildren: David J. Anderson (Jennie) of San Francisco, Kathleen Simcoe of Baltimore, Jonathan Anderson of New York, New York, and Evelyn Mahon of Williamstown.

A service of memorial and interment of her ashes is planned for 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 2, at St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Hempfield. A light lunch will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations in her name can be made to St. Edward's or to the ASPCA.