



Dolores Ann Whaley Denton

June 19, 1940 - March 27, 2010

DENTON, Dolores Ann (Whaley) June 19, 1940 - March 27, 2010. Known as "Ann" to her family, friends, and colleagues at Blossom Hill Elementary School in Los Gatos and as Miss Whaley and, later, Mrs. Denton to her students. Ann Denton inspired hundreds of Los Gatos students in a teaching career that spanned from 1963 to 2003. Daughter of John and Frances Whaley of Jamestown, California, she graduated from the Calaveras High School at San Andreas, California in 1958. After attending the University of the Pacific for one year she transferred to San Jose State College where she graduated in 1963 with a BA degree and teaching credential in elementary education. Later, she earned her Masters degree in elementary education. She began her teaching career in the Fall of 1963 at Blossom Hill Elementary School where she taught for the next forty years. Not having a car at the beginning of her career, she rode the bus from her residence in downtown San Jose exiting at the corner where the Paul Swanson Ford agency was located then walking the distance to Blossom Hill School. Later in 1965 she bought a new Ford Mustang convertible at the Swanson agency and put her bus riding days behind her. Characterized by her optimism, Ann loved teaching, was proud of her profession, and always strove to bring dignity, fairness, creativity, and relevance to her classroom. Surrounded by loving care, she died peacefully in her home in Cottontown, Tennessee from complications associated with Pick's disease. She is survived by her husband Donald, their three sons and daughter-in-laws; Robert and Nancy Denton,

Chris and Brenda Denton, David and Lori Denton, eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and by her brother and sister-in-law John and Debra Whaley. All who knew her will miss her.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dolores Ann Whaley Denton*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Mom had a vitality that enriched all of those around her. She had a great sense of humor and enjoyed the same passion my father has for a nice dinner out and a good movie. Over the last eight years her husband became her angel. In the end, with the help of a very special person, Dodie, she showed all of us the strength of her spirit and soul. Brenda, Samuel and I love you very much.*

Christopher Denton - April 21, 2010 at 03:13 AM



“ *So many of the treasured memories from my years at Blossom Hill Elementary include our dear Ann. There was no one more dear, more devoted and more loving than "Annie Bananie." I can still hear her laughter, whether it be at an early breakfast gathering with other colleagues or in the corner of the staff room giggling at our antics during teacher meetings. She lived her life true to who she was... a teacher, a wife, a mother and dear friend. I love you, Ann.... always.*

Keri Kensinger - April 14, 2010 at 02:00 PM

CS

“ I knew Ann both as a teacher and a colleague. Initially she was Miss Whaley to me; the tall, beautiful woman with the auburn hair (and the really cool red Mustang convertible!). She was the perfect fourth grade teacher, showing great kindness along with a very high set of academic standards that she knew you could achieve. Copious notes were always on each paper. If I didn't get 100% on a math assignment or test, she let me know I had just been careless, because I could have done better. And I did.

As a colleague in later years, she was the same caring, compassionate person with her young students, as well as her fellow teachers. She will be missed!

Carolyn Carl Simon - April 02, 2010 at 04:43 PM

JL

“ We only knew her for a brief time but from the devotion shown by her husband and those who were close to her, it is easy to see that she was a warm and lovable person. She will be sorely missed.

Jim and Rosemary Lewis - April 01, 2010 at 01:54 AM

GO

“ Ann, Pat Smith and I had many breakfasts together as they welcomed me into their special before school friendship circle. Ann was such a positive, friendly person. I will always remember her sparkling ways and her laughter.

So sorry to hear of her passing. Way too young!!!!

Gale Olson - March 31, 2010 at 11:49 PM

PS

“ Don and Family, Ben and I were so sad to hear of Ann's death. She was my very best friend for over 30 years. As we shared breakfast together nearly every morning before school for 30 years, we helped each other solve many of life's problems such as child rearing, teaching young children in Los Gatos, and what new clothing styles to wear. Ben and I loved playing tennis together with you and Ann through the years. She will be missed by everyone whose life she touched with her sweetness, friendliness, and sense of humor. She was truly a rare jewel.
We loved her,
Pat and Ben Smith

Pat and Ben Smith - March 31, 2010 at 10:34 PM

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Pat and Ben Smith - March 31, 2010 at 10:33 PM

GG

“ Don, I often think of Ann and the great 10 years that I worked as her assistant. She was such a wonderful, caring teacher and friend. We had lots of fun together. I really enjoyed her friendship.

G.Ann Gridley - March 31, 2010 at 08:14 PM

JB

“ I often think of Ann, especially in the evenings when my classroom is quiet and there's time for reflection. She was a special friend and an amazing mentor to me and many other teachers in Los Gatos. Her positive outlook, upbeat attitude, and devotion to the teaching profession will keep her memory alive for many years to come.

Joe Bolin - March 30, 2010 at 04:42 AM

CL

“ To Ann's family my heartfelt sympathy. Ann was a very special person who personified kindness and caring to all whom she met. She was a true lady. I know she will be missed by many. Happy memories.
Sincerely, Carolyn Lee

Carolyn Lee - March 30, 2010 at 02:27 AM

KB

“ Don and Family, I was sorry to hear of Ann's death. She was a wonderful teacher who touched many children's hearts and minds. Two of my own children were lucky enough to be in Ann's class at Blossom Hill and it was a wonderful experience for them both. My thoughts are with you all at this time. May she rest in peace. Kathy Bays, parent and Board of Trustee, LGUSD

Kathy Bays - March 30, 2010 at 02:27 AM

MR

“ Dear Don:

I don't know if you remember me, but I am currently an Assistant Superintendent in the Los Gatos Union School District. I heard about your loss today and want to send my heartfelt sympathy. My prayers are with you and your family today.

With Warm Regards:

Marla Rodriguez

Marla Rodriguez - March 30, 2010 at 12:02 AM