



Virginia Dawson

March 16, 1917 - May 22, 2010

OBITUARY OF VIRGINIA BATES DAWSON

ZEELAND, MICHIGAN: Virginia Bates Dawson of Zeeland, Michigan, formerly of Adrian, died on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at The Hospice House of Holland. .

She was born March 16, 1917 on the family farm in Rome Township. On October 11, 1941 she married John H. Dawson in the old Adrian College Chapel.

Virginia graduated from Adrian College in 1938 and from the University of Michigan with a Masters in Guidance and Counseling in 1961.

Dr. and Mrs. Dawson spent thirteen years in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area serving Methodist churches in Clymer, Wilmerding and Crafton. When Dr. Dawson became President of Adrian College in 1954 they came to Adrian, where she worked diligently at his side serving the college.

Virginia and daughter, Marsha, entered Drager Middle School together where she began her career as an English Teacher and Guidance Counselor. She relished being productive. In retirement she served as President of Lenawee Retired Teachers, President of Monday Literary Club, and as a board member

of the Salvation Army, and Bixby Hospital Auxiliary. She was instrumental in bringing PEO Chapter EI to Adrian. Virginia also enjoyed many hours with sewing friends at The First United Methodist Church. Perhaps her greatest joy was teaching her granddaughters to bake multiple pies at the family cottage on Lake Michigan.

Virginia repeatedly commented in her last year that she had “Lived a Wonderful Life.”

She is survived by her daughter, Marsha Nelson (Jim) of Holland, MI; her granddaughters, Elizabeth King (William) of Holland, MI and Emily Taylor (John) of Byron Center, MI; her great grandchildren Will, Elise and Charles Dawson King; and Cade, Grace and Brooke Taylor; brother and sister-in-law Robert and Sally Dawson of Richmond, Va; and many nieces and nephews.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, Minnie and John Bates; her brother, Victor Bates ; her husband, John H. Dawson; and her dearly beloved son, John R. Dawson (Jack).

Family and friends are invited to remember and celebrate her unique spirit on Friday, May 28, from noon-3:00 at the Wagley Funeral Home at 1501 W. Maumee in Adrian.

Should you wish to remember Virginia with a memorial, please consider The Hospice House of Holland at 445 104th St., Holland, MI 49423 or the John R. Dawson Scholarship Fund at Adrian College, 110 S. Madison St., Adrian, MI 49221.

Tribute Wall



“ Virginia Dawson

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Dear Marsha,

I was sorry to read that your mother passed away. She was a much more private person than your father, but still a very strong influence on the students she worked with. I remember her being a counselor at Adrian Middle School when I was enrolled there.

Of course, for me, this brought back so many memories of Jack, and all the fun we all had in Dawson's Field when we were kids. It's these kinds of memories that keep me going when times get rough.

Please pass my condolences on to your family.

*With warm regards, Julie##imported-begin##Julie
Clemes##imported-end##*

June 02, 2010 at 09:49 AM



“ *I remember Mrs Dawson as a fair but exacting English teacher, and as a role model in our First United Methodist Church. I remember Jack as well, both from school and MYF; I looked for his name at the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, DC on my last visit there. May her soul give flight....##imported-begin##Patricia Betz
Walker##imported-end##*

May 27, 2010 at 08:48 PM



“ Dear Marsha and family,
What fond memories we have of your mother all those many years in Adrian. Your folks came to Adrian just before John and I entered Adrian College in 1955. Your mother and my mother taught at Adrian Middle School together and were at the First UMC together. We attending many gatherings in the President's home where she was the perfect hostess. What a wonderful full life she had! Our prayers are with you and your family and sorry we will be unable to make the trip to Adrian tomorrow.
Kathryn and John Wyler###imported-begin##John and Kathryn (Kishpaugh) Wyler###imported-end##

May 27, 2010 at 07:38 AM



“ Thinking of you with sadness at the loss of your Mother.
Janet###imported-begin##Janet Clemes Rearick###imported-end##

May 25, 2010 at 03:04 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to all your family in the loss of your mother. She was a wonderfu woman with so many great accomplishments. She surely did live a great life.

Barb and Phil Covell###imported-begin##Phil and Barb Covell###imported-end##

May 24, 2010 at 09:25 PM