



Marsha Mead

June 13, 1953 - December 20, 2012

Bluefield, VA Marsha Mead, 59, of Bluefield, Virginia, died Thursday Dec. 20, 2012, at the University of Virginia Medical Center Palliative Care Unit in Charlottesville, VA following a sudden downturn in her long struggle with ovarian cancer. She was surrounded by family members. Marsha was born in Monterey, CA, where her father was stationed at the U.S. Department of Defense Foreign Language School. She was the daughter of Doris Groves and George Adkins. The 1971 Valedictorian at Greenbrier West High School in Charmco, WV, Marsha attended Concord University. She was editor of the Concordian student newspaper, and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Concord in 1975. Following two years as a teacher at Stoco Elementary in Raleigh County, WV and at Crumpler Elementary in McDowell County, WV, Marsha enrolled in the Master of Counseling program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA where she received a Master of Science Degree in 1980. As an employee of the Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center in Welch, WV from 1979 to 1983, Marsha rose to the position of Welch Clinic Director. From 1984 to 1991, she was employed by the Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board, serving in a variety of out-patient counseling capacities in its Tazewell County, Virginia service area. In the fall of 1991 Marsha entered full-time studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA as a doctoral degree candidate. In 1994 she was awarded the PhD Degree in Counseling. The findings of her doctoral dissertation on the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic Statistical Manual were published in the

Journal of Mental Health Counseling, and subsequently resulted in Marsha receiving the “Researcher of the Year” award from the American Mental Health Counselors Association at its 1998 annual convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, recognizing the quality of her research. Marsha became licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health Professions, holding licenses to practice as a “Licensed Professional Counselor” and “Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist”. In 1992, upon completion of a graduate assistantship at Virginia Tech, she entered into private practice in Bluefield, VA later affiliating with Dr. Philip Robertson at the Psychiatric Associates of the Virginias. Over the years Marsha taught adjunct college courses at various institutions such as the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies and Bluefield College. In January 2009 she accepted a full-time faculty position at Bluefield College in the Department of Psychology. She considered the opportunity to teach and mentor students to be “the privilege of a lifetime”. Some of the upper division courses she taught at BC were of her own design. Her continued contact with Bluefield College graduates was augmented by on-line social media such as Facebook. Marsha was active in professional organizations such as the Virginia Counselors Association and civic organizations, having served as the President of the Bluefield, Virginia Women’s Club. Her practice as a private clinician always included pro bono work. Marsha and her husband worshiped at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Bluefield, VA where they were married in 1981. During their children’s younger years, she and Art attended the Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church in the West Graham section of Bluefield, VA where they raised their three children. Marsha was a devoted wife and a loving mother, grandmother and aunt ready to sacrifice for family members. In her selfless devotion, she encouraged her children to pursue all that would help them to lead a fulfilled life. She was the unifying factor in her family. The same steady guidance, sound advice, and sense of humor that made her an excellent counselor also made her a wonderful wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. Her immediate and extended family consider themselves blessed to have had Marsha in their

lives. Marsha is survived by her husband, Alfred C. (Art) Mead, Jr. of Bluefield, VA; her mother, Doris Groves of Rainelle, WV; her father George Adkins, and spouse Carla, of Rainelle, WV; her daughter, Rachel Archer Collins, and spouse Chris, of Gallatin, TN; her son, Matthew J. Archer, and spouse Meredith, of Chesapeake, VA; her daughter, Laura Mead Aylor, and spouse Joshua, of Oak Ridge, NC; her brother G. Edgar (Eddie) Adkins, and spouse Jeffrey Mendell, of Washington, D.C.; her brother Mark A. Adkins, and spouse Marsha, of Fayetteville, WV. Marsha's five grandchildren include Rachel's daughter and son, Madeline and Logan Collins; Mathew's daughter and son, Madison and Hayden Archer; and Laura's son, Josiah Aylor. Marsha's mother-in-law is Muriel Mead of Bluefield, VA. Marsha's nieces and nephews are Eddie Adkins' daughter, Jeanie; Mark Adkins' son, Zachary; the daughter and son of Art's deceased brother Edward Mead, Laura Marie Spaulding of Parrish, FL and John Mead of Seminole, FL; and Laura Marie's daughter, Lily Ann-Marie. Marsha's step-siblings are Linda Bailey, of Elkins, WV and Larry Gilkeson, of Mineral Wells, WV. Marsha's Memorial Service will be held Friday, December 28, 2012, 2:00PM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Logan St. and Tazewell Ave. in Bluefield, VA. Reverend Russell Hatfield and Reverend Robert Boozer will preside. Visitation (wake) will be at the Mercer Funeral Home and Crematory, 1231 West Cumberland Road, Bluefield, West Virginia, Thursday evening, December 27, 2012, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Marsha chose to be cremated and will be interred at the St. Mary's Episcopal Church columbarium in Bluefield, Virginia, immediately following the funeral. Those wishing to make a financial gift in lieu of flowers are encouraged to direct such contribution to the Bluefield College Department of Psychology in Bluefield, Virginia. Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Marcia Mead

Tribute Wall



“ *Marsha Mead*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *To Laura and her family, On behave of all the colleagues, friends, students and families at Harvey Newlin Elementary School in Burlington, NC we extend our deepest sympathy to your family. We are truly blessed Laura is on our team. She is a wonderful young woman and teacher. Please know we will do all we can to take care of her each day. We will keep her and her entire family in our prayers each day. Sincerely, Angela A. Lynch Harvey Newlin Elementary School Assistant Principal*

Angela A. Lynch - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *My heart aches for all of you in the loss of Marsha from her earthly life. May you find comfort in your many memories of healthy times and happy moments shared. Sincerely, Ron and Debbie, friends of Eddie and Jeff, Jeanie, Cindy, and Doris*

Ron and Debbie Pearson - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Marsha was a wonderful colleague at Bluefield College and a wonderful lady. She was kind, supportive, and always demonstrated a Christlike spirit in all she did. I feel blessed to have known and worked with her at BC. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family, and I pray God's peace for you all as you rejoice in her memory. All the best, Barbara Hudson*

Barbara Hudson - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

BW

“ *Nothing I can say would be adequate...still in shock.*

Barbara & George Wilson - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

SH

“ *My deepest condolences to Art and all the family. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Susan Horne - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

FG

“ *We are so sorry that we can not express the words.*

Freda & Tom Grossman - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

TJ

“ *Marsha was truly an inspiration to myself and my sister, she provided internships for both of us nearly ten years apart. I became close friends with Marsha and shared many laughs, and good times with her. She always had a clever story and could always make me laugh! Her wit and humor were unmatched! My heart goes out to the family and she will be sadly missed but her legacy will live on!!!!*

TJ - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

CJ

“ *Dear Art Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We were privileged to get to know Marsha and we shall always be grateful for the support Marsha and you gave us over the years. Marsha will live on in our memories.*

Carolyn and Sudhakar R (Jammy) Jamkhandi - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

SG

“ Thinking of you and hoping that the happy memories of your times with your sister will bring you comfort.

Susan and Gary - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

TM

“ I have fond memories of Marsha from the Concord days. She was always upbeat, caring and funny. She lived a great life and I am sure she will be missed by many. Peace and love to the family during this most difficult time.

Tami Morgan - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

LW

“ Our friendship was brief but I am so grateful to have been witness to these special families during our yearly gatherings; the love, kindness, and above all the HUMOR will be the things I remember. Have never met a more united accepting family. My prayers encircle each of you at this time; a candle will be lit in our home as you say your final farewell. Gods presence will surround you. Our love and respect, Lenore

Lenore and Ray Walsh - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

DW

“ I am so sorry to learn of Marsha's passing. Marsha and I attended Concord together. I have wonderful memories of our Campus Crusade for Christ trips to VA Tech and to Philidelphia over Christmas break one year. I am blessed to be able to call Marsha my friend. Those who live in the Lord never have to see one another for the last time. See you again Marsha!

Debra Blake Wilson - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

BP

“ *I truly am sorry for your family's loss. She was an angel . She helped when no one else could. She has been and will always be in my thoughts. may god comfort your family at this time.*

betty poseno - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

PD

“ *So sorry to the family at this sad time but I know Marsha is looking down, out of pain, and smiling. God Bless*

Patti Gwinn Davis - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

PR

“ *Rachel, Matt and Laura, I am sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was a wonderful woman who gave to so many. She was a friend to me and offered me helpful advice and support on more than one occasion. All three of you are a permanent fixture in my memories of Bluefield, VA. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Patty Reed - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

VJ

“ *Marsha and I worked and commuted together while at Southern Highlands. I am so very sorry to hear of her passing. I will always remember her pragmatic approach to life, her drive and commitment to her profession and that wonderful sense of humor. My deepest sympathy to Art, her children and family.*

Vickie (Rothausen) James - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

MW

“ My deepest sympathys go out to Art and your entire family during this most difficult time. I have always appreciated everything you and Marsha did for Garentte and myself. Marsha is a great lady and her loss will never be able to be replaced, but we must take solice in her memory as she will always be with us in our minds and hearts.

Mark Wigal - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

PO

“ Art and family, my heart is sad that Marsha has left us, but my heart rejoices that I call her friend. May her sweet spirit continue to be with you.

Phyllis Owens - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

KF

“ Our condolences to the family. We hold many fond memories of laughter and good times with Marsha and her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Karen & Forest Fowler - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

MY

“ Our deepest sympathy to Art and the family for Marsha's death. Our prays and thoughts are with you all. She was so special to so many. We will continue to remember your entire family in the days ahead. Sincerely, Missy Simpson and Randy Yost

Melissa Simpson and Randy Yost - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

TH

“ *My condolences to the family for Marsha's passing. She was one of the best doctoral students I had in 32 years of teaching at Virginia Tech. She is a credit to her family, the University, her friends, her clients, and of course, to herself. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.*

Tom Hohenshil - March 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM