



Aletha Katherine Deal

December 14, 1937 - April 16, 2020

Aletha K. Deal, 82, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2020, after a long decline with Alzheimer's disease. She was born December 14, 1937 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Roy Deal and Edith Fiddock Deal. In 1959 she graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Her graduation ended a 49-year unbroken period with a member of her family attending NWU. She later received a master's degree in Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Aletha taught junior high math to generations of students, beginning in Kearney and then Ogallala, Nebraska, and for decades at Lincoln Junior High in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Aletha was the kind of teacher who loved working with her fellow teachers, going to seminars, teaching other teachers, and serving as a leader in her professional organization. At the same time, she was known for standing on her head while singing "Five Little Ducks" or "Little Rabbit Foofoo" and creating elaborate Halloween costumes. She was strict but fair, encouraging not only her beginning level math students but acknowledging her top geometry students by awarding them a special trophy. Teaching was her passion.

She was devoted to her family, helping her mother through her own long decline with Alzheimer's. She particularly enjoyed frequent visits from her brother Duane and hosting family holiday dinners.

She loved her church family at First United Methodist Church, adding her voice to the choir, and (as a “lay leader”) helping with the purchase of the beautiful pipe organ that fills the front of the sanctuary. She held Bible studies in her home. Her pastors saw her as someone they could trust, a friend when they needed one.

Aletha loved the world her God created. She spent several summers working as a director of a Girl Scout camp, and weekends tent camping, hiking or snowshoeing in Poudre Canyon and RMNP. She also loved her dogs and cats, antiques, and traveling in all 50 states and then abroad.

Aletha is survived by her nieces and nephews: Karen Robinson, Laura Deal, Diane Paulson, Kathryn Hoover, Don Deal, Mike Deal, Roger Deal, Jeff Deal, and Kevin Deal. Her parents and her brothers, Duane, Bruce, Ervin, and Marvin Deal, predeceased her.

The family would like to thank the staff at North Shore for their loving care during Aletha’s final years.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 25, 2020 at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover Street. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Food Bank for Larimer County or First United Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall

KA

“ I had Miss Deal for 7th grade math and algebra later on. I remember she could name the books of the Bible from memory even standing on her head.

Krispin Andersen

Krispin Andersen - July 21, 2020 at 11:52 AM

KR

Love it! She used to stand on her head for us at Christmas :-) Thanks for sharing that fun memory.

--Karen Deal Robinson

Karen Robinson - July 26, 2020 at 02:28 PM

AD

“ Ms. Deal was a firecracker! She was my math teacher at Lincoln Junior High and I remember how evident it was that she loved teaching, she loved math and she loved working/teaching kids. As I grew up to become a principal of a middle school, I can remember talking about finding math teachers like her! Fair, strict, high expectations, strong disciplinarian, fun, lover of learning...perfect! I know that she is up there running the place! Rest In Peace, Ms. Deal. Well done.

Alicia Durand - July 20, 2020 at 07:23 PM

KH

“ Miss Deal was strict, but also had a quick wit. In my eighth grade, Miss Deal dressed up as a calculator for Halloween that actually worked! We enjoyed her in church choir for many years. For a small woman, she made a huge impact on others.

Karolyn Schamberger Harper - July 19, 2020 at 04:32 PM

GK

“ *Your mother was a great teacher! Our son so enjoyed her math class and seeing her stand on her head. Rick is now a doctor and your mother contributed to his love of math as well as science.*
Ginny Kadera

Ginny Kadera - July 19, 2020 at 12:44 PM

KR

Thanks, Ginny! Aletha actually had no children, but she was a wonderful aunt to her nieces and nephews. I'm so glad to hear your son loves math :-)

---Karen Deal Robinson

Karen Robinson - July 26, 2020 at 02:23 PM