



Charlotte Bigelow

April 14, 2009

Charlotte Louise Bigelow of Fort Collins, passed away peacefully at her home on April 14, 2009. Charlotte Louise Sawin was born on December 31, 1923 in Gardner, Massachusetts to Alton and Irene Smith Sawin. In 1943, she graduated from North High School in Worcester, Massachusetts. She then attended Salter Secretarial School and worked at Heald Machine Company. On February 29, 1948, she married Norman Tudor Bigelow in Worcester. Their son, David, was born the following year. After moving to Feasterville, Pennsylvania, Charlotte started working at Central Penn Bank. She began as a teller, but she retired as a Branch Manager. During her years at the bank, she went through at least two robberies. She was active in Questers, and was a 65-year member of The Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1983, she and Norman moved to Colorado to be closer to their only child, David, and his family. Charlotte volunteered to help children learn to read at Laurel Elementary School. She always wanted to be a Kindergarten teacher, and children were drawn to her. Her work at Laurel School was very special to her and kept her involved in the community she loved. Charlotte always considered herself "lucky" because she had so many friends and her health was so good. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alton and Irene Sawin; her brother, Alton Sawin, Jr.; her husband, Norman Bigelow; and her son, David Bigelow. She is survived by her sister, Jean Danielson of Holden, Massachusetts, and her family; her daughter-in-law, Cynthia Bigelow; her grandchildren, Dennis and Caroline Bigelow; irreplaceable friend James Ogg;

and all the many friends and school children who will remember her kindness and her bright spirit. Services will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 2:00 pm at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. There will also be a gathering after the service at Park Lane Towers, 415 S. Howes St. The family requests that no flowers be sent. Instead, donations in Charlotte's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of America or to KRFC FM radio station <http://krfcfm.org/> in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall

PW

“ *In Loving memory of a dear Aunt. She will be missed very deeply as my cousin David and my Uncle Norman are. My deepest condolences to Cindy and her children.*

Priscilla Wiebe - May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ *In Loving memory of a dear Aunt. She will be missed very deeply as my cousin David and my Uncle Norman are. My deepest condolences to Cindy and her children.*

Priscilla Wiebe Niece - May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *I became acquainted with Charlotte Bigelow a little less than two years ago. It was my good fortune and great pleasure to have her as my neighbor at Park Lane Towers during this time. She will be greatly missed.*

Robert Holzfaster - April 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Charlotte has left a wonderful part of herself at Laurel Elementary. I will never forget her infectious smile and her dedication to my kindergarten students. Our students received a valuable gift in her love of reading and her patience as she listened to countless beginning readers as they discovered the joy of the printed word. We are all better for knowing her. What a fine example of living life to the fullest!*

Marie Stringer - April 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ I met Charlotte when my class would visit, and read with, Mrs. Graff's 1st grade students. Her love bubbled over my children as they entered the room and her beautiful smile filled their spirits every week. I know this because she made me feel the same way! I'm sorry for the loss of such a wonderful person, but look forward to the future when we meet again.

Rhonda Palin - April 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ To Charlotte's family and friends, I will never forget Mrs. Bigelow arriving in my first grade classroom to volunteer for the morning. She came to school almost every day! She loved working with the children and being a part of our school community. The students always beamed and said, "Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Bigelow is here!" I think it is important that all children have a person like her in their young lives. They felt as much a connection to her as she did to them. A grandparent can be a vital force in a child's life. That was what Mrs. Bigelow was to our students. I will always remember Charlotte fondly. I so enjoyed visiting her at her home. She would always get out two wine glasses so we could share a glass of Mogan David wine. She was sad to have lost her husband and her only son, but she adored her daughter-in-law, granddaughter, and grandson. She talked about them so often. She was also blessed to have her friend Jim. Mrs. Bigelow was very proud of her east coast heritage. She shared much of her history with me. She treasured her family heirlooms and planned to pass them on to her family. I am thrilled she was honored by Poudre School District as an outstanding volunteer. It was a pleasure to know Charlotte Bigelow. We will miss you, Mrs. Bigelow! Love, Mrs. Graff

Debbie Graff - April 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM