



Doris Elizabeth Anderson Demm

October 26, 1933 - August 11, 2020

Doris Elizabeth Anderson Demm passed away on August 11th 2020, in Richmond, Virginia. To multiple generations of friends and family, she was known as “Honeybunch,” or, simply, “HB.” She was born in Richmond, Virginia, the 4th child of George Francis Anderson and Mary O’Connell Anderson. Doris adored her older brother, John Donald Anderson; and her two older sisters, Helen Anderson Valentine, and Jean Frances “Pinky” Anderson.

Doris attended West Point High School, and graduated from St. Gertrude High School. She took college courses at the former Richmond Professional Institute, and completed her degree at Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore. Upon graduation, she worked as an English teacher in the Baltimore area, then took a job in Washington DC at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. While vacationing in Virginia Beach, Doris met a young United States Army officer, Paul W. Demm, who was stationed nearby. Paul’s career in the Army took him to France for a time; Doris followed her heart to rejoin him and they married in the town of Verdun, France, in February of 1961. Two of their three sons were born in France, Christopher and Stephen; Charles was born in Virginia, following another military transfer. Doris was a loyal military spouse, moving from France to Pennsylvania to Texas to Ft. Eustis and then to Richmond, as Paul’s military assignments changed, and taking care of three young boys during his two tours of duty in Vietnam. Doris would return to working outside the home in Richmond; at the Central Richmond Association, for the Virginia Department of Probation And Parole, and finally, the Virginia Department of Youth And Family Services. Along the way, she found time to volunteer at St. Bridget Catholic Church, and at St. Bridget School. Doris also worked for the ParentTeacher Association at Douglas Freeman High School.

As a full-time worker and a devoted mother of three, Doris was always in motion. With her boundless energy, she kept the house in order, juggled her kids’ multiple sports and activities, made (and reheated) meals, used her skills as a strict grammarian to help with homework, looked after her own parents as they grew older, took care of multiple pets, and planned family vacations (for which she always tried to include an educational

component). In her “free” time, she was an avid reader and walker, and she also enjoyed a Coke and an occasional whiskey sour. She loved get-togethers with family and friends, where she never wanted to be the center of attention, but instead took real joy in the accomplishments of others. Perhaps her greatest joy in life was becoming a grandmother, and she happily spent hours with her two grandsons, Jack and Donal, singing, painting, reading, listening to music, making “the best mashed potatoes,” playing baseball . . . whatever was necessary. She was a woman of faith, and while she was not a Bible scholar, she boiled things down to her oft-cited Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Doris is survived by her husband, Paul W. Demm; sons Christopher F. Demm and wife Beth of Greensboro, North Carolina, Stephen P. Demm and son Jack Anderson Demm of Richmond, Virginia, and Charles A. Demm and son Donal W. Demm of Lewiston, Maine.

A private ceremony will be held in Richmond, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to benefit the G. Francis and Mary O. Anderson Library Endowment (0266) at William & Mary. Checks should be made payable to the William & Mary Foundation and sent to the Gift Accounting Office, P.O. Box 1693, Williamsburg, VA 23198-1693. Memorial gifts can also be made online at www.giving.wm.edu.

Comments



“ Paul

Ashby and I wish to extend our sincere condolences on the loss of Doris as she was a great friend to us as well as my parents Pappy and Mammy (Gilman and Ethel Roberts).

She was always happy and brought joy to everyone.

David and Ashby Roberts

David Roberts - August 24, 2020 at 08:11 AM



“ Vickie and I were terribly saddened to hear of Doris' passing. She was always smiling and very friendly every time that I saw her. We know that Paul and the boys are grieving terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and Paul and the entire family.



Hugh Tito - August 18, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ When I was young, Mrs. Demm would occasionally drop by our house with several bags of hand-me downs from her sons. I enjoyed the "new" clothes, but mostly loved her smile, her humor and her stories! She really lit up the room and was such a great friend to my mom. I will always appreciate and remember Mrs. Demm and the love she brought to our home. I know Mr. Demm and all the boys must be heart-broken. Please know we are praying for you and we are so sorry for the loss.

Chris Awad - August 18, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ It is a heartfelt sadness to learn of Doris’s passing. I have always felt a special kinship to Helen, Jean and Doris. It was my lifelong privilege to have known them.

Donald O'Connor - August 18, 2020 at 07:33 AM



“ To the Demm family.....

I am a devoted listener to Chris' radio show in the mornings and I am deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Doris. Chris usually told many stories about her and his dad on the show and based on what I heard, it turned out she was an exceptional lady. Please accept my sincere condolences for all of you and your loved ones.

Opie Roberts

Opie Roberts - August 17, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Honeybunch. I grew up on "The Hill" in West Point with her. She and her family were wonderful neighbors.

Fred Hodges - August 15, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ Mrs. Demm was one of the sweetest, Kindest people with a heart of gold. She and her sisters were something else.

They always looked like they were having so much fun. She was a special part of our family. I Know she will be dearly missed ;

by her family....give a hug to Mr. Deem

keeping you in thought and prayer

Jeannie Awad Ritchie

Jean Ritchie - August 18, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of Honeybunch. I had the pleasure of knowing both Doris and Jean while working with the state Probation & Parole Board. She never failed to extend a hand, provide assistance, teach and befriend everyone that worked in the central office. I'm proud to have know her and been a piece of her life.

Frank Rockwell, St. Augustine, Fl.

Frank Rockwell - August 20, 2020 at 12:27 PM