



# Shirley Suddendorf

May 24, 1930 - July 14, 2020

Shirley (née Paolino) Suddendorf, age 90, died peacefully in her sleep on July 14 in the presence of her loving husband and family. Born in Cincinnati on May 24, 1930, to Florence and Anthony Paolino, sister of Marjorie Paolino of Cincinnati, Shirley graduated from Withrow High School and the University of Cincinnati. She met her future husband, Richard Suddendorf, in the University music program and they were married on December 27, 1952. They honeymooned in New York City and enjoyed Broadway musicals, which became an important part of their life together.

Shirley was the mother of three children, Jeffrey (Jane) Suddendorf of Port Washington, Wisconsin, Pamela (Gary) DeCoker of Dublin, Ohio, and Michael Suddendorf of Worthington, Ohio. She had five grandchildren, Nick (Melissa) Suddendorf, Sarah (Drew) Richter, Atticus, Stella, and Jo Suddendorf, and four great grandchildren, Leena and Cody Suddendorf, and Gracie and Lydia Richter. Children played a special part in Shirley's life. In addition to her own family, she was a first-grade teacher to many children in both Columbus and Kalamazoo, Michigan. After retirement, she shared her love of books by forming a book exchange at her school. The Arcadia Elementary School in Kalamazoo named their library in her honor.

Wherever Shirley and Richard lived, they created a welcoming home. Sitting outside among their flower gardens or inside next to a warm fire, friends and family gathered to share stories, laughter, music, and their love for each other. One of the lovely gifts Shirley gave to her family were her camping adventures to National Parks, including Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Acadia, and more.

Shirley and Richard raised their family as members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Worthington and rejoined the church after returning to Central Ohio from Michigan. Over the years, Shirley and Richard were active in Church programs, and Shirley shared her love for St. John's through her volunteer work in the Church office. An interment service for immediate family will take place in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Church Memorial Fund at [www.stjohnsworthington.org](http://www.stjohnsworthington.org) or mailed to St. John's

Episcopal Church, 700 High Street, Worthington Ohio 43085 in Shirley's memory would be a welcome way to join in the celebration of her life.

# Comments

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“ Dear Mr. Suddendorf, Jeff, Pam & Mike,  
I am very sorry to hear of Mrs. Suddendorf's passing. I moved to Ohio more than 50 years ago and Jeff and his family were the first people I met and were very welcoming. Your back porch, yard & basketball hoop became my 2nd home. Your mother was always very gracious and kind, which is a hallmark of your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
God bless,  
Carl Juckett

**Carl Juckett** - July 27 at 11:58 AM

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“ Dear Jeff and Family, I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. It has been said, and I agree, . . .don't cry because she is gone, Smile because she was here and all the beautiful memories you have because of her, Heartfelt thoughts go out to you Jeff, in this time of sorrow. From your WHS homeroom buddy for many years, Lisa Studer.

**Elise** - July 21 at 07:00 AM

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“ I taught with Shirley when I moved to Kalamazoo. She was a great teacher and a great role model. She was also a warm and loving friend. It was a gift to be able to know her in my time teaching.

**Deborah Zeiler** - July 20 at 11:38 PM

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“ Kathy Kildow, Westerville Band purchased the Cheryl's Classic Treats Box for the family of Shirley Suddendorf.



**Kathy Kildow, Westerville Band** - July 19 at 06:17 PM

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“ My family moved to Ohio in 1955, and the Suddendorfs just lived a few houses up on Orchard Drive. Jeff was a little boy, and we used to play together, and Pam was born while we all lived there. I like to think she was named after me. Shirley and Dick always kindly told me she was. Eventually both families moved to different houses, but still stayed in contact through St. John's.

After many years, I moved back to Ohio and reconnected with the Suddendorfs at St. John's and attended the Westerville Band Concerts that Dick conducted. I am so sad we were not able to stay in closer touch due to our varied illnesses.

Shirley was a lovely person and I will miss her. Dick, Jeff, Pam and Mike, you have my deepest sympathy and you are in my prayers.

**Pamela Zych** - July 18 at 06:11 PM

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“ Condolences to the Suddendorf family. I remember Mike and Jeff from school, and the whole family because of living right around the corner. I have especially fond memories of Mr. Suddendorf, who conducted the Columbus Youth Wind Ensemble and the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra at Capital University. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers.

**Jim Perone** - July 18 at 05:20 PM

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“ I didn't know Shirley, but as a member of St. John's Episcopal Church Worthington, she was a very familiar presence with a gracious smile for all of us. To Dick and their family I send my condolences for this very difficult loss. Know that many prayers for comfort and peace are going up for all of you. Shirley, Rise in Glory.



**Marlene Talbott-Green** - July 17 at 05:54 PM