



Dr. Ann Converse Shelly

July 5, 1943 - June 9, 2023

Dr. Ann Converse Shelly was born on July 5, 1943, and never did quite get over learning that the fireworks were not for her on her birthday. She passed away after a battle with esophageal cancer in the company of her beloved husband, Robert. She is survived by her husband, sibling and children, Elizabeth (Sven) DeJong and the Rev. Marshall (Laura) Shelly. She is also survived by her sister Lynn Savage (William) and her sisters in law, Linda VanDenBerg and Lucretia Shelly, as well as her extended network of nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues. Raised by the first woman to become a principal in the Lansing, Michigan school system and a jazz musician turned church organist, she lived a life devoted to faith, formation, education, and social advocacy. Her passion for education led her into battles for equal, civil, and human rights.

Her moral compass was flawless, and yet she had a terrible sense of direction. She was never truly lost, though, because when confused about her location she would announce, "We aren't lost. We are right here." Her children learned early on how to collaborate with her in these moments, learning how to navigate by the sun, moon, and stars to get the family to its destination.

Ann accomplished much in her career, rising through the ranks of academia to become a Professor of Education, department chair at Bethany College (WV) and ultimately Dean of the College of Education at both Georgia Southern University and Ashland University. She labored for years in teacher education as a national and international coordinator for teacher associations, co-

founding WorldFATE (Federation of Associations of Teachers in Education), creating global networks of teachers. She fought tirelessly for everyone to have access to education, and believed passionately that every moment in life was a blessed gift, a teaching moment.

Every day meant new opportunities to learn, to teach and to advocate for change. She was never far from a desk or computer, working to organize a teacher's conference, create curriculum, research a paper, or collaborate with a colleague. Even in retirement, she continued to labor for her community, her church, and her profession. She taught Bible studies, served on Vestries, as parish warden and on diocesan councils and committees. She traveled around the world, gathering up networks of relationships in education that eventually led to an invitation to keynote an education conference for the United Nations.

She was a passionate advocate for change in our political systems. She and her husband coordinated voter registration drives, supported people enrolling in health insurance, and fought for statehouse and local political reforms. She was of the generation of women who changed the world, and the world is a better place for their witness and sacrifices.

As accomplished as she was, her greatest love was for her husband, her family, and her kids (the vast network of people who by both blood and adoption were hers to love). She embraced a call to lead a life that bucked the system, fighting for the freedom of the disenfranchised to forge lives that were self-determined and unlimited in potential. She fought for the underdog, loved the struggle, and never gave up teaching, learning and leading others to deeper knowledge, wisdom, and faith.

Ann leaves this life better than she found it, having given her all in order that all have enough to live a good life.

A Celebration of Life Service will be Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 3:00 P.M., at St. John's Episcopal Church, 700 High St, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

If you wish to honor Ann's memory, say a prayer today, learn something, teach someone, and then find a way to advocate for positive change in the systems

you navigate. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Dr. Ann C. & Dr. Robert K. Shelly Endowed Lectureship Series in Education at Ashland University. Checks should be made out to Ashland University, noting the scholarship name on the memo line, and mailed to this address: Ashland University 401 College Ave Office of Advancement; Ashland, Ohio 44805. Give of yourself so that others may learn and grow. Treasure and share every teaching moment.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life:

JUL 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
700 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

PR

“ Dr Ann, I kept calling your number, sending emails to your email without response. I never knew you have left us. I remember all your support and encouragement to get me into WFATE, my programs on education at the UN and your personal love for me. I am in tears but to God be the glory. I will the family can reach me on 6464134329. Will love to immortalize her on Jan 24 at our Virtual education event to mark the UN day of education. Sleep well my mother and mentor

Prof.Ada - January 12 at 10:19 AM

PR

“ Prof.Ada lit a candle in memory of Dr. Ann Converse Shelly



Prof.Ada - January 12 at 10:14 AM

ED

“ My condolences to the family of Ann Shelly. She live a great life and has left her imprint on the Association of Teacher Educators. She was and will always be the Queen of bylaws. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to see her and talk with her this past March. Even though she is now with our Heavenly Father, we will always remember the impact that she made on others. Thank you Ann for a job well done.

Emma Savage Davis - June 16, 2023 at 04:52 PM

FT

“ I send my condolences to Bob and the whole family. Ann and I have been ATE colleagues and friends for many years then we worked together to found the WFATE. Ann and I served on various ATE committees and she was an expert on bylaws and following an organization’s constitution. She was an amazing woman who served well and long. I will miss her greatly.

Francis van Tassell - June 15, 2023 at 09:51 PM

RH

“ I am so sorry for our loss of Ann. I had the honor & joy of writing about Politics and Political Advocacy with Ann. She will always have a special place in my heart. Condolences to Ann’s family.. (Rebecca Harris)

Rebecca Harris - June 15, 2023 at 06:27 PM

 Jodi Nickel

“ Ann introduced WFATE to me and CATE (Canadian Association for Teacher Education) and was always such a warm and encouraging colleague. I was hoping to see her in Victoria this summer. Condolences to all of her loved ones.

Jodi Nickel - June 15, 2023 at 05:49 PM

CH

“ I am so very glad that I was able to work with Ann on my first ATE commission. Her leadership and insights helped me to create a good foundation for the educator preparation program that I administer at my university. Thank you Ann, you will be missed.

Cecilia Hernandez - June 15, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the album WFATE



Jenene Burke - June 15, 2023 at 07:41 AM



“ On behalf of the World Federation of Associations for Teacher Education, I extend heartfelt condolences to Bob and family.

Ann was a highly respected foundation member of WFATE and held the position of Executive Secretary for over 12 years. Her service to WFATE is immeasurable and her passing is a great loss to our organisation.

Vale Dr Ann Converse Shelly. We will miss you.

Jenene Burke - June 15, 2023 at 07:03 AM