



## Dolores "DeeDee" Kay Leffel

May 9, 1936 - June 9, 2021

Dolores "DeeDee" Kay Leffel, age 85 passed away Wednesday, June 9, 2021. She was born on May 9, 1936, to Avery and Hazel (Phillips) Justus in Columbus, Ohio. Her family moved to Springfield, Ohio in 1945. DeeDee graduated from Springfield High School, attended Ohio University, and graduated from Springfield Hospital School of Nursing. On April 8, 1960, she was married to William (Bill) Leffel. They moved to Columbus in 1962 and lived there and in Dublin, Ohio until moving to Stone Oak, an independent living community in Hilliard, Ohio, in 2016. DeeDee had a lifelong love for her family, classical music, and travel throughout God's world. She was employed as a Registered Nurse in various health care fields, retiring from Ohio Department of Health in 1996. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law, Don Dickes. She is survived by her beloved family, husband of 61 years, Bill; daughter, Lynne (Craig) Smith; son, Mark (Cathy) Leffel; grandchildren, Jeff (Skylar) Smith, Ryan (Ellie LeBuhn) Leffel, Allie Smith, and Jillian Leffel; great-grandson, Ruger; sisters, Phyllis Dickes and Joyce (Ed) Pitt; several nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held for family and friends at 3:00 pm Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in the Theater at Stone Oak Retirement Community, 4160 Trueman Boulevard, Hilliard, OH where the family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers donation may be made to: Ohio Health Hospice-Kobacker House, 800 McConnell Drive, Columbus, OH 43214.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Stone Oak Retirement Community  
4160 Trueman Boulevard  
Hilliard, OH 43026

## Memorial Service

JUL 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

Stone Oak Retirement Community  
4160 Trueman Boulevard  
Hilliard, OH 43026

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dolores "DeeDee" Kay Leffel*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM

“ I love reading these heartfelt and beautifully expressed tributes and memories of DeeDee- that she was such a Blessing to all who came within her influence. Yes, "warm, caring, loving, devoted, inspirational" to all of us lucky enough to know her and that her Spirit of love does flow on.

*I remember being with my mother, Bill's Aunt Isabell, at the beauty parlor at the Park Shopping center in Springfield, (where my mother and DeeDee's mother, Hazel, had their hair done weekly) and overhearing my mother and Hazel, after their sharing how kind, sweet, intelligent and WONDERFUL nephew, Bill and daughter DeeDee are, and wouldn't it be just perfect for them to meet! Next thing I know Bill is bringing gorgeous, radiant DeeDee to our family picnics and all of us younger cousins are just in love with THEIR BEAUTIFUL LOVE!*

*I remember the excitement of DeeDee being the first "cousin" "with child" and then when Lynne was born watching DeeDee (this memory brings tears to my eyes) holding her and gazing at her with such love, and letting all of us take turns carefully holding her. My first experience with babies. These were the days when everyone bottle fed their babies for some reason, and so we were amazed when DeeDee excused herself to go to Grandma's bedroom to "feed" Lynne. I remember tip-toeing in and DeeDee, discreetly covered and sitting in the corner rocker nursing Lynne, just looked up at me with her warmest smile and then down again to adorable little Lynne, gazing into one another's eyes. I moved closer and just sat on the side of Grandma's bed observing in awe. What a gift! DeeDee's love just filled my heart! Truly this experience is why I too nursed my babies. My mother adored Bill and DeeDee and fortunately we would take "road trips" to visit them often in their first home on the Westside of Columbus.*

*And yes, she also had a terrific sense of humor! Many years later when I was newly married, my husband and I happened to run into Bill and DeeDee at a Bob Evans, our first time sitting together when*

*I was more "adult" and we sat there talking for a couple of hours. DeeDee was so delightful! She had me in tears laughing hearing her stories of humorous happenings in healthcare, always told with such respect, care and love. What a precious, radiant Spirit! I join all who are holding Bill and Lynne and Mark and all who are missing DeeDee in my heart.*

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**Barbara Ryan** - July 03, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dolores "DeeDee" Kay Leffel.*



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July 03, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *My condolences to the Leffel family. I do not know Mrs. Leffel personally, but I work with Mark and he's been my manager for a long time and he's been a good boss to me, and I think that is a reflection of how Mr. and Mrs. Leffel raised their family. May she rest in peace.*

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**Jay Oconer** - June 18, 2021 at 12:49 PM

MT

“ *DeeDee was one of the nicest, most caring mentors I ever had the privilege to work for at the Department of Health. She also was my friend who I will miss very much. Her warmth, genuine concern, caring spirit, sense of humor, and ability to make a person feel valued and appreciated was such an inspiration. She made me, and all who knew her, want to be a better person. DeeDee will be missed by so many and her far reaching impact and legacy will live on. Thank you, DeeDee, for all that you did for me and so many others. You were a blessing and a joy in my life. May you rest in peace, my friend.*

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**Melinda (Perry) Talbot** - June 14, 2021 at 10:18 PM

BR

*This is a wonderful, heartfelt tribute to DeeDee Melinda. Thank you for sharing! I can tell that you are a Blessing in lives you touch too!*

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**Barbara Ryan** - July 03, 2021 at 12:41 PM

CE

“ *DeeDee was always a sweet, soft-spoken woman who always surprised me by remembering who I was. Such a delightful person and one whom I know Bill and their family will miss here on this earth. Take comfort in knowing you will see her again. For now, she's in the loving arms of Jesus.*

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**Caryn Evans** - June 13, 2021 at 11:43 PM

JD

*Dee Dee and I grew up next door to each other in Columbus, Ohio. They moved to Springfield and our families visited several times. She invited me to a sleepover at the nursing school and I entered in August 1956! She was my big sister until she graduated. I was a hostess in their wedding!  
We kept in touch at Christmas for many years!  
With deepest sympathy for your loss*

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**josie Dallas** - June 14, 2021 at 09:54 AM

MH

*When I think of Dee Dee, I see and remember her warm smile and soft, engaging presence. She blessed her family with her devotion and care, loving kindness and generosity of spirit. My heart is holding each of her family, our cousins who span miles and memories, with tenderness during this time of loss.*

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**Mary Harwood** - June 14, 2021 at 12:54 PM