



Mrs. AthLee Shealy Muehlnickel

July 23, 1934 - January 11, 2021

AthLee Shealy Muehlnickel, 86, of Valrico, FL, born in Columbia, SC, on July 23, 1934, was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Jan. 11, 2021. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brandon. She was a blessing and inspiration to her family, a true angel. Her deep faith, her endless compassion and unselfish thoughtfulness and forgiveness inspired all who knew her.

AthLee enjoyed Bible study, spending time with her family and friends, baseball, cooking and quilting. She constantly sought to learn new things and educate herself. From scripture studies to new cookbooks to history, politics and sports, she was unrelentingly curious.

Few things made her happier than when she was surrounded by family at home. She loved daffodils and orchids. She enjoyed watching Tampa Bay Rays games but remained a longtime Atlanta Braves fan. She was devoted to spoiling her dog, Hermann. Her generosity was renowned as a dinner host in her home and as a pastor's wife assisting the congregation while raising three daughters and caring for her father-in-law in their home.

AthLee graduated from Columbia High School as Salutatorian (she earned Valedictorian status, but at that time a female was not allowed to hold that title). Immediately after graduation, she accepted a stenographer position with

the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. AthLee was accepted into The George Washington University in November 1952. Being the loving daughter that she was, she returned to home to Columbia to care for her mother. AthLee attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

AthLee always worked to support her family. Through her work, she developed many lifelong, beloved friends who enriched her life deeply. Retired for many years, her precision and skills as a paralegal continue to be complimented by former colleagues. No matter where she lived, her neighbors remember her as a warm, kind friend. She was blessed by her many friends in the Fishhawk Villa-rettes and her Plant City Aerobics class founded by Miss Clarice. Any conversation with AthLee brought joy, inspired and calmed those who were fortunate to share her fellowship.

She was preceded in death by husband, Rev. Donald W. Muehlnickel; and precious daughter, Ruth Ann Marcin. She is survived by daughters, Faith Hughes and Grace Houck (Jeffrey), both of Valrico; grandchildren, Adam Hughes (Ashley), Dylan Hughes, and Brian Houck; great-granddaughter, Avery Hughes; and beloved cousins, family, and friends.

A graveside service for family only will be at 3 p.m. Jan. 27 at Hopewell Memorial Gardens, 6005 S. County Road 39, Plant City. Masks and facial coverings are required. The family will announce details for a memorial service later this year.

Memorial contributions can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brandon (GodSoLoved.Org), and the IBC Network Foundation (theibcnetwork.org).

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. AthLee Shealy Muehlnickel.*



January 26, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ *Sending our love for God's peace to Faith, Grace, and the family. We will always remember AthLee at Apostles Lutheran as a wonderful friend with a generous spirit. We attended her Sunday School Bible Study class that she taught. May see rest in peace.*

Wendell and Celia Rogers - January 22, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Grace, Jeff and Brian Paul and I wanted to tell you how sad we were to hear of your mom's passing. I can remember many a sit out and Halloween that she was there and how funny and sweet she was. I know you will miss her. We are putting you in our prayers. Love you great neighbors for 16 years. Sherrye and Paul Archer.*

Paul and Sherrye Archer - January 20, 2021 at 08:50 PM

KQ

“ *Athlee was the sweetest, most kind and loving person. She was like a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day. Her presence brought a sense of peace and calmness to those around her. She was such a warm, wonderful human being. I loved her dearly and will miss her so much! I feel blessed to have known her and her family.*

Kathy Quill - January 20, 2021 at 10:21 AM

LH

“ *Grace and family. I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss. I thought the world of your mom. I know she is happy and no longer in pain. What a wonderful legacy she has left on this world. How very proud you all must be I feel honored to have been able to call her my friend. Until we meet again. You are forever loved and miss.*
Lorie Hayes
SunTrust
Fishhawk

LORIE HAYES - January 18, 2021 at 10:01 PM

KI

“ *Kitty lit a candle in memory of Mrs. AthLee Shealy Muehlnickel*



Kitty - January 18, 2021 at 04:27 PM