



Madeline B. Despres

April 3, 1936 - November 23, 2016

Ms. Madeline B. “Tootsie” Despres, 80, of Tully, NY, left this world for her everlasting journey with the Lord on Wednesday, November 23, 2016, while surrounded by the love and laughter of her loved ones and her best rescued feline friend, La petite chat. Born April 3, 1936, to the late Paul and Bernadette Labrecque Despres, her childhood was spent growing up with her late twin sister, Margarette Brown, in Newcomb, NY. After graduating high school in 1954, Madeline went on to graduate from the University of Albany with a degree in education.

Following her college graduation, Madeline built her life in Tully, NY, where she became a French Teacher at Tully High School, which granted her many trips abroad with her students. She was also a communicant of St. Leo’s Church. While living in Tully, Madeline founded Hearts Astray, a nonprofit organization aiding in veterinary costs for the less fortunate. Along with Hearts Astray, Madeline prided herself in being the Southern Tier Dog Control Officer for 14 years and adopting many pets of her own.

Maddie is survived by her loving caretakers and best friends Mary Ellen and Kimberly Kramek and Jeffery Duchesne of LaFayette, NY. Also surviving are nieces Jane Prather of CA and Mary McDonald of Red Creek, NY, and nephews Jeff Brown of GA and Lee Brown of Marcellus, NY.

Per Maddie's wishes, there will be no services. Donations may be made to a local animal shelter in honor of Madeline and her love of all creatures.

Maddie's friends would like to give special thanks to Ashley, Beth, Sam and Jacklyn for their wonderful care.

"It's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember."

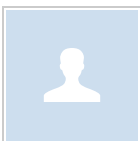
Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Madeline B. Despres*

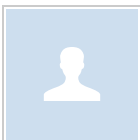


Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - November 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Miss Despres--- generous, loving, funny, ...unforgettable. She was an exceptional teacher; she helped send me to Europe when my family was tight on money; we saved a dog together decades after graduation; the art work she bought us in while in French IV still hangs in my home... so many great memories. "Miss Meadows" will always be remembered.*

November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Miss Despres is the one teacher I have regularly thought about ever since I took her French class as a senior wayyyy back in 1986. She was a wonderful woman. Very funny and lighthearted. I used to love to stay after with her just a minute or two after class, as her history fascinated me. Saddened to hear she's not with us anymore but am positive she's living it up upstairs. Prayers go out to all her loved ones, human and animal.*

November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to Madeline's family and friends. A wonderful neighbor we never were lucky enough to meet.

Candle of Memories - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Miss Despres was one of my favorite teachers. She influenced me in so many ways. In French III, we had mini courses in French art, French composers and French literature. As a 16 year old, I began the courses completely uninterested. I finished the courses with a much better appreciation of the arts. She ignited my lifelong interest in Vincent Van Gogh. Merci, Mademoiselle Despres. I loved your joie de vivre, fierce dedication to your students, and devotion to your dogs. You may be gone from this realm, but you will never be forgotten.

November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Nothing but love for my French teacher. May her kind soul continue to inspire us to become better people. She will be missed.

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Madeline was a dear, wonderful friend to my mother, Blanche Rainbow. Madeline was always visiting and helping her care for her animals and showed much continued support and concern for her as her health declined. She did not hesitate to call if she thought there was something wrong and she couldnt reach my mother. I am forever grateful for her love and compassion, to both my mother and all her animal friends. I am sorry for her passing, and my thoughts of peace and love are extended to her friends and famy.

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sadenned to learn of the passing of my French teacher, Ms Despres. I have many fond and funny memories. There was the time during finals when she thought I was cheating. My study sheet was faceup under my desk. I had my head in my elbow while taking the the test. It gave the appearance I was cheating. However, a) my glasses were off and I cannot see more than 6 "s wout them, and b) I already had a 95 avg.*

I recall the expressions of horror the class as she and I argued these points over and over. It was clear I was right, but she wasnt going to budge. She ended up not scoring the page I was on when she caught me.

Ironically, she and I had a long after Tully HS friendship.

She used to visit with my aging mom, Blanche Rainbow, every single day. She did this for years. Saints do their work without pay or seeking praise.

I gave her a painting of the Arc de Triumphe. I bought it from a street vendor in Denver. My wife hated it, but it made Madeline giddy.

I know she hated to leave her home on 11a. I hope she enjoyed her latter years, much as she helped my mom enjoy hers.

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *She was a great teacher, neighbor & friend when I 1st graduated from Tully High school in 1969.*

Coffee and Cake - November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ It was with great sadness that I read of the passing of Ms. Despres. She was my French teacher for 4 years at Tully High School. I have fond memories of singing French Christmas carols, eating at French restaurants, and going to Paris with Ms. Despres in my junior year. She was a very generous person-she even paid for part of my trip when money was "tight" for my family. Even though it is over 30 years since I was in her classroom, I still smile when I remember her, and how interesting and fun it was to be in her presence. I'm so thankful to have known her. Maureen Maher Murphy

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Jeff & Maryellen I am so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you I only met Maddie (Tootsie) once but through all of you I felt like I knew her she was so lucky to have You as her family. RIP
Love Cathy

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Even though I never had Ms. Despres as a teacher, I do remember talking with her many times as a student at Tully Central. We used to kid her about what "French 4" consisted of. She was very nice. Prayers out to her family and friends..... Kitty (Jenney) Lowden

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Madeline was an outstanding teacher and humanitarian! My trip to Europe during my Junior year was so memorable due to her care and love of culture and her students! In the years following her retirement, she would visit my parents and they would share their love of pets. Her passion and exuberance are forever etched in my memory of her excitedly exclaiming, "Oooh! Oooh! before her completing a sentence when a student said something to her. Tully was blessed to have her as a teacher, friend, neighbor, loved one, and animal warden!*

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ms. Despres was my favorite teacher. A mentor and friend. I learned a lot from this lady. Deepest sympathies to family and friends.*

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *A wonderful person, teacher, and mentor. A true lady.,who was loved and respected by all lucky enough to meet her. A life well lived .*

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *She was a wonderful devoted person - devoted to her profession and students, devoted to the animals she cared for and devoted to her God. Today she is being rewarded for the life she lived. RIP Mmme. Despres.*

November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FN

“ *She was one of the great ones. She never let you down. If she said it she did it. Was super nice all the time. Time will be long before you are forgotten*

Forget Me Nots - November 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *As a teacher-she taught us well and was dedicated to her students,- and later on she was a joy to run into at the post office with a story, a smile, and to share something interesting. She will be missed!*

November 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *we miss you tootsie, love your Jeffery and your Mary Ellen*

November 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM