



Deborah O'Donnell

November 15, 1930 - July 7, 2012

Deborah O'Donnell of Philomath, Oregon, died July 7, 2012 of natural causes. She was 81. Deborah was born November 15, 1930, in Omaha, Nebraska, to parents Ray Arthur Dunn and Anita Jeannette Cotton Dunn. She grew up in Auburn, Nebraska, and lost both her parents prior to graduating from Auburn High School May 18, 1948.

Debbie married Theodore Milton Rarick of Auburn, Nebraska, on November 11, 1950, at the Church of the Ascension Episcopal Church, Auburn, Nebraska, who enlisted in the Air Force and served in the Korean War, while she nurtured their first two children, Patrick and Daniel. After Ted was honorably discharged and completed his Master's degree in geography at the University of Oregon in 1957, they made their home in Corvallis, Oregon, where Ted taught at Corvallis High School and Deborah was a homemaker. After their other two children, Christopher and Jeannette, were born, she became a student at Oregon State University studying music with a focus on piano and voice. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1969, then taught piano and voice lessons in her music studio in her homes for 42 years and for many years taught more than 30 students. She was active in the Oregon Music Teachers Association and was a member of Zonta International of Corvallis for thirteen years. After Ted died on December 20, 1976, she continued to teach out of her home and traveled to India & Nepal, Australia, Greece, Hawaii, and Alaska.

In June 19, 1982, she married Robert E. O'Donnell, a school teacher in

Corvallis, at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Corvallis, Oregon. They sang in the church choir, enjoyed traveling, and built two homes, one in Corvallis and their final one in Philomath. Deborah continued to teach piano and voice lessons out of her home and had the pleasure of teaching several of her grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening, knitting, cooking, and hosting St. Patrick's Day dinners. Robert O'Donnell died June 30, 2011. Deborah continued to live at home and teach piano and voice lessons until her death. She was a faith-filled woman devoting many hours to daily prayer and service to her church. She is survived by her family, Patrick Rarick and wife, Debrah; Daniel Rarick and wife, Nancy; Chris Rarick and wife, Karol; and Jeannette Baker and husband, Jon. She had five grandchildren: Konstantin, Nathaniel, Michelle, Helen, Theresa and husband, Nathan; and two great grandchildren, Landon and Simon.

A memorial service will be held at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Corvallis, Oregon, on August 9, 2012, at 2 p.m. Deborah's students or friends are invited to play the piano in the reception hall following the service.

Memorial gifts may be made in her honor to the OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR, 97333, to support music scholarships and piano activities at Oregon State University Music Department.

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Deborah was my "prayer warrior". Whenever she prayed for my concerns, they went straight up to heaven and were answered so abundantly. My parents, Anne & Bill Mills were friends in her early days in Corvallis. I'm sure they're all hugging and greeting each other now in heaven. Cammie Bella*

Cammie Bella - August 10, 2012 at 02:47 PM

BC

“ *My thoughts are with your family. I knew her as Deborah Rarick the piano teacher. She lived down the road from me as a small child and I would walk in the back for my lessons. She always had the best stickers to choose from when you did a good job. I will always remember her as the lady who taught me how to play the Entertainer by heart.*

Beth Rettig Chamblin - July 23, 2012 at 08:34 PM

DE

“ *Dear Debbie's graduation from the happy years on this earth leaves a void in the hearts of all of us who knew & loved her, and delighted in her devotion to God and the people who experienced her warm & happy hospitality.*

Our loss is sorrowful but only temporary. The eternal reunion will reestablish the joyful happiness that originated in this life. Thank you, Debbie for living for values that supersede all earthly pleasures, that were real because of your love for God and those of us who experienced His love through your years of loyalty and devotion.

We will all look forward to seeing you where God's promises of eternal perfection are our experience, along with you. Goodbye for now!

Dolores & Richard Ellison - July 12, 2012 at 03:21 PM

JH

“Deborah and Robert came into my life about fifteen years ago. We met at a birthday party for one of Deborah's piano students, who happened to be a classmate of my daughter's. From the very start I knew they were special. Bob remembered me from his basketball coaching days of fifty plus years ago, not because I was once on one of his teams, but rather that I played on an opposing team. One thing led to another, and after learning that I tuned pianos, it wasn't long before I was tuning for Deborah, usually just prior to one of her many recitals. Because of the kind of work I do, I know a lot of piano teachers. However, I had never met a teacher like Deborah who put so much energy into her recitals; printed programs, seasonal decorations, etc. She had a way of making it special for her students. She (and Bob) had a way of making me feel special, every time I'd visit to work on the pianos. It wasn't long until I felt like I was one of the family. It seems like she would always time the appointments so that I finished just in time for lunch, either home-cooked or at one of their favorite local spots, always as their guest. I always looked forward to seeing Deborah, and I will miss her, she was such a dear sweet lady. Jim

Jim Harter - July 12, 2012 at 02:13 PM