



Sheila Graham Heider

May 23, 2019

Sheila Graham Heider

Longtime Loudoun resident Sheila Graham Heider, 81, died May 23rd at Inova Loudoun Hospital at Lansdowne.

Born in Tacoma, Washington, to Elynore Ulrika and Ivan Charles Mikalaski, Sheila Heider later moved to the Washington, D.C. area where she met nurseryman and farmer Albert Henry Heider.

Sheila married Albert Heider at St. Paul's Rock Creek Church on December 29, 1962. Their lifelong love affair lasted 52 years until Albert's death in 2015. The Heiders settled in Lovettsville at Legacy Farm in 1970 where they raised their five daughters, including two sets of twins.

In 1978, the Heiders moved to Lombardy Farm in Leesburg where Albert and Sheila established and operated Heider's Nursery for over 25 years. In the early 1990's, they moved their family and business to Lucketts where they owned and operated Heider's Country Store & Farm Market until 2018.

The Heiders were renowned for opening their homes to countless numbers of relatives and friends, some of whom became extended family members. Sheila and Albert's kindness and generosity extended far beyond their Meadow Fox Farm in Lucketts, a frequent site of large gatherings for holidays and other special occasions. A fierce and loyal friend, Mrs. Heider offered sage advice accompanied by a twist of humor. Fortunate are those that can lay claim to being a friend of the Heider family.

A woman ahead of her time, Sheila Heider was not only a true entrepreneur and working mother but also devoted to her community. She was an activist for various causes pertaining to agriculture and protecting the history of Loudoun County, and served as Chairman of August Court Days and warden of Christ Episcopal Church.

Known for her keen mind, sharp wit and ceaseless devotion to her family and friends, Mrs. Heider was acclaimed as a lifelong horsewoman. She showed horses as a child and throughout her long life. Over the years, she expertly taught horseriding to children and adults, was an avid foxhunter, and bred Thoroughbred show horses and Welsh ponies. Sheila loved spending time as a horse and mule judge at competitions in Virginia and Maryland.

She is survived by three sisters: JoAnne Newsome of Ellicott City, Janis Caracofe of Ellicott City, Judith Wingo of Clarksville; five daughters and their husbands: Holly & Evan Chapple of Lucketts, Catherine & Wade Blaha of Tilden, TX, Kristin & Bryan DiCaro of Pleasanton, TX, Heather & Scott Van Pelt of Lucketts and Lisa & Tim Eifler of Louisville, KY and sixteen grandchildren.

Continuing the tradition of an "Open Door", a celebration of her life will be held on Monday, June 3rd at 11 a.m., in the garden at Van Vixen Farm at Meadow Fox 13490 Wilt Store Road, Leesburg, Virginia 20176.

(Please check back for change in location information due to weather.)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Department, who assisted the Heider family on many occasions.

We encourage you to send a memory or condolences to the family at the Loudoun Funeral Chapel via link Sheila Graham Heider.

A private internment will be held for family at St. Paul's Rock Creek Church in Washington, DC.

Cemetery

Rock Creek Cemetery

201 Allison St NW,
Washington, DC, 20011

Events

JUN

3

Celebration of Life

11:00AM

Meadow Fox Farm

13490 Wilt Store Rd, Leesburg, VA, US, 20176

Comments



“ I'm writing for my 95 year old mother, Dot Schneider, who along with my dad, Fred, knew Sheila and Al from the nursery community in Pr. George's County, Md. My parents always enjoyed good times with them personally and professionally. To this day my mother shares stories and memories of Sheila and Al. She is so sad for your loss.

JoAnn Schneider Kentrus - June 16, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Heider video



mark - June 04, 2019 at 08:09 AM



“ Feel an emptiness at learning of Sheila's passing. Blessings to family 🙏
mary ellen (meg gahan simmons) higinboth - January 26, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ Janis, Judy, and JoAnn I know how much you three will miss your dear Sheila! I think back to a million years ago and to the tiny produce stand on Riggs Road, yep that long ago, Holly was just a little girl!!!!!! I would go up to the stand to visit with Janis, Sheila would drop by every day just to say hello and to check on her baby sister! I remember her as warm, loving and funny and that she had your Mom's glorious smile!!!!!! Treasure you memories of her and your wonderful cruise the four of you took!
So sorry for this loss Janis! Please tell Judy and JoAnn I send my love!
Chris Rizer

Christine Rizer - June 03, 2019 at 07:21 PM



“ To all the Heiders but especially my friend Heather -- Thank you for sharing your Mom with me and my family. I remember so fondly talking horses and children with her and enjoying food around your table. Sheila was generous and wise. What a grand woman! We are grateful we can come share in the celebration of her amazing life with your all this morning. -- Love Di and Family

Diane Hutchinson - June 03, 2019 at 09:59 AM



“ I'm thinking of all of you and wishing I could be there. Lots of love to you. Memories of Sheila and her love for all of you bring a warm smile to my face. --Nana

Helen Chapple - June 01, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ Sheila
She hired me as her pet groomer! Many years ago, and we build our friendship. We always had a good story too talk about her animal and kids.

Not too long ago she was so worried about her sister and she opened up and talked to me about it

I was her sounding board!

So every time I came to groom Ditto I would ask about her sister. She would tell me she was doing much better I was so happy for her.

She had a warm and giving heart

I'll miss her smile and warmth

Diane Bailey - May 30, 2019 at 03:09 PM



“ I was introduced to Sheila and Albert by way of teaching all 4 of the twins at Simpson Middle School. I knew that these girls had a wonderful family life because they were so special. In 1981 and 1982, I was getting divorced and I needed help. Sheila was right there for me even though she really didn't know me. I have always had a special place in my heart for Kristin, Katey, Heather, and Lisa....And of course for Sheila and Albert. I felt it an honor to know this family.

Sherry Wilson - May 29, 2019 at 03:20 PM



“ You were one of the best teachers I ever had and inspired so many students. I remembered your sweet mares and how much my mom liked you!

Heather Heider - May 30, 2019 at 03:23 PM



“ In addition to being an Awesome neighbor and Amazing Woman in her own right , Shelia gave my Daughter a chance to prove her Mettle at an early age . She mentored her and gave her the courage to pursue her endeavor in the Horse World . I feel sure that Shelia and Al are having a wonderful reunion !

Barbara Rogers - May 28, 2019 at 11:27 PM



“ Shelia was an amazing lady. She did many things. I taught Lisa and Kristen and enjoyed them both. You have my deepest sympathy. Cecelia Cole

Cecelia Cole - May 28, 2019 at 03:08 PM



“ Albert and Shelia bought the family farm in Lovettsville back in 1970. Then they were known as "those people from Washington". But what impact they had on Loudoun! I will always hold a special place in my heart for the whole Heider family. It is very seldom I utter the term "Lady". Shelia was a very, very special Lady. The world was made a much better place with Shelia and Albert in it. Rest in peace as you walk among your flowers and trees.

William George - May 28, 2019 at 11:24 AM



“ I was shocked to learn if this sad news. It was an honor to have met Mrs. Heider. She had a great sense of humor and always welcoming. Heather, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Sending you much love and a big hug. It's so hard to lose a love one. I hope the wonderful memories you have and knowing your beautiful parents are together brings you peace. I miss you and send my deepest condolences. Love always, Emilia, Melissa and Emily Philip

Emilia Philip - May 28, 2019 at 11:23 AM



“ I appreciated how the Heider family opened their home to me. Miss Sheila was always so gracious when visitng.

Always enjoyed sharing in the local joke of me being the "sixth Heider" whenever I would stop by Southern States to pick up horse feed and said to put it on our account - "Heider"?

Um, no.

"Well you look like one of them."

Warms my heart to this day to be "somewhat" related to such a wonderful family.

Hugs and prayers to all during this difficult time.

Ariel Lotz - May 28, 2019 at 10:20 AM



“ Anytime I spend with Albert and Sheila was happy and full of laughter. Memories of Thanksgiving fun at their house and Laughter at the beach at Top Sail Island. Love and hugs to all family and friends.

Michelle Walker - May 28, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ Judy: I was so sorry to hear of your sister's passing. Reading about her and having worked with you, I can see where you must have gotten some of the inspiration for your positivity and strong work ethic. I'm thinking of you and praying for your sister and your family. Regards, Bob Frances

Bob Frances - May 28, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ I was so upset to hear this news and have been thinking of all of you so much. I wish I could be there to give you all big hugs and support. Your house was like a second home to me and I always felt the love of Sheila and Albert. She was an amazing woman and I will miss her dearly. Stephanie

Stephanie Johnson - May 28, 2019 at 07:47 AM



“ I really don't know what to say other than the world is a lesser place without Sheila and Albert too. My wife Jane and I were two of those people who they so graciously invited in to their home for Christmas dinners and much fun and laughter. She will be missed but not forgotten.

paul and jane kerr - May 27, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ Vicki Lemp Weavil lit a candle in memory of Sheila Graham Heider



Vicki Lemp Weavil - May 27, 2019 at 06:51 PM



“ Cecelia Cole lit a candle in memory of Sheila Graham Heider



Cecelia Cole - May 27, 2019 at 05:47 PM