

About Virginia S. Mlakar

Virginia S. Mlakar was born April 19, 1929 in Euclid, Ohio. She was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, aunt, friend, neighbor, teacher and colleague, always enjoying life to the fullest.

She loved being married to husband John and becoming a parent to daughter and life-long friend, Debbie. Upon marrying, Virginia moved to Wickliffe and then later home was in Willoughby.

Becoming a teacher was a childhood dream, when she often “played school” with friends and cousins. Virginia was a good student herself, attending Shore Elementary and graduating from Shore High School in Euclid. She graduated with degrees in Education: Bachelor of Science from Kent State University and years later a Master’s from Lake Erie College in Painesville.



Virginia was raised Catholic by her devoted parents and continued down that path for her remaining years at Mt. Carmel and St. Noel parishes.

Virginia’s teaching career began substituting in Euclid. She became an endeared teacher to many students in Euclid and Wickliffe where she taught language arts and social studies for 37 years. Virginia taught primarily in Wickliffe at Worden Elementary School and then ended her career at the Middle School. For teaching that many years, she even ended up teaching children of her students! In 1992, she began a new chapter as an active retiree!

She also enjoyed “giving back” through volunteering. For many years she was a reading tutor through the Ohio Reads Tutor program in Painesville, meeting weekly with her special “Book Buddy” student, Sara. Virginia was also excellent in performing clerical tasks for the Development Team of Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland.

Virginia was proud to be a Martha Holden Jennings scholar. For years she was a dedicated member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Lake County Retired Teachers Association.

Virginia had a busy social life with family and friends. Favorite pastimes included golf, book club, bridge, pinochle, gambling, cinemas, live theater and dining out. Virginia enjoyed seeing our country, and the world, through traveling on land and cruising on the seas.

She had many wonderful qualities - being caring, pleasant, generous, sweet, kind and non-judgmental, having a good sense of humor, willing to help others in need and enjoying a good laugh. And Virginia was well known for her sense of style wearing colorful clothing but more so for her life-long love of sweets, particularly chocolate!

The Virginia Mlakar Enrichment Fund has been created in her memory, and is intended to be used to support, in part or whole, an enrichment project that would otherwise not be possible due to lack of school funds.