



Lucille J. Thonis

June 26, 1927 - September 23, 2020

TOWNSEND: Lucille J. (Poitras) Thonis, 93, of Townsend, passed away Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at home following a brief illness. She died peacefully in her sleep in the care of her devoted, long-time friend Jane Perna.

In accordance with her wishes, Lucille will be cremated and her ashes scattered by her children over the White Mountains of New Hampshire, a place she and her late husband George, who built their home from the ground up, loved dearly. Anderson Funeral Home of Townsend is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please consider making a donation to the charity of your choice in memory of Lucille, who spent her life as an educator, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and spiritual healer to many. She also was strongly dedicated to God, Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Lucille was born, also at home, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts on June 26, 1927, one of 12 children and the daughter of Euclide and Mathilda Poitras.

Lucille, a bright, strong-minded woman who was dedicated to ensuring her five children would be well educated, decided as a full-time mom to go to college, also full-time, to earn her teaching degree from Fitchburg State College in 1965.

That decision launched a 40 year career as a teacher and school administrator throughout the North Middlesex School District. She ended her decorated teaching career at Spaulding Memorial School in Townsend.

Lucille followed that calling with a new mission as a spiritual healer and certified Reiki Master. While teaching Reiki to others and using its power to heal many residents of Middlesex and Worcester counties, Lucille continued to interact with children via reading sessions at local schools. She was known affectionately by her many students as "The Reading Lady."

Surviving Lucille are her five children, Michael Thonis of Wellesley, MA.; Peter Thonis of Franconia, NH; Paul Thonis of Corning, NY; Michelle Ryan of North Chelmsford, MA.; and James Thonis of Milford, NH, as well as each of their spouses. Also surviving her are two brothers, Roger Rheault of Georgia and Bob Rheault of Townsend, MA. Furthermore, she is survived by eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren, plus dozens of nieces, nephews and cousins, many of whom live in New England.

Given current restrictions on public gatherings, the family is not planning memorial services at this time. Future plans will be announced at a later date.

For additional information or to leave an on line condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

KD

“ *My sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lucille Thonis. She was my first and second grade teacher. We were so very fortunate that our entire class stayed with her for both grades. I will forever consider her one of the kindest and caring people I have ever known. May she rest in peace among the angels.*

*With sincere sympathy,
Kim (Ordway) Dee*

Kimberley (Ordway) Dee - October 01, 2020 at 11:54 AM

JM

“ *Back in the late 70's Lucille helped us as parents in making some important decisions about our son's education. Shortly after, she assisted me in becoming a teacher for the North Middlesex district where I spent 23 wonderful years as an educator. I greatly admired and respected her. She was a great lady.*



Joann Marion - September 29, 2020 at 07:31 AM

JP

“ *Lucille was the assistant principal and curriculum supervisor when I first accepted a teaching position at Varnum Brook in 1985. She gave me my very first teaching evaluation. She was so sincere in her praise and appreciation of my teaching. It made me constantly strive to be a better educator. She was quick to praise and guide with a strong yet gentle caring heart. She simply radiated love of learning, teaching, and people in general. Lucille, you warmly remain in the hearts of so very many lives that you touched throughout your years at North Middlesex. May you Rest In Peace.*

Bill and Jan Pothier

Jan Pothier - September 25, 2020 at 09:06 PM

LB

“ *I remember Lucille from her days at SMS when she was my son's classroom teacher. He was so lucky to have such a caring and thoughtful teacher. I re-met Lucille when I joined the staff at PFS in 1973. She hadn't changed. She was small in stature but big in her genuine kindness and teacher support. I feel privileged to have worked with her. She was an outstanding human being! May you Rest in Peace. Love, Linda Brown*

Linda Brown - September 25, 2020 at 04:10 PM

CW

*My oldest son had her for first and second grade, because she was such a great teacher they kept the whole class together for the sake of a special child that blossomed in her classroom and with those classmates! She was a special, caring, lovely person. It was a privilege to have known her.
My sincere condolences to all her family. Carol Wright*

Carol R Wright - September 26, 2020 at 10:54 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen - September 25, 2020 at 12:18 PM

JH

Mike's mom, always welcoming and often a comfort. Haircuts in the basement and always curious about what was happening in my life. Bless your full life.

Joanne st. hilaire - September 25, 2020 at 04:21 PM

MW

“ *Lucille was an Instructional Supervisor when I came to North Middlesex, so very effective and respected. I admire the life she led beyond the schoolhouse....family, friends, laughter, healing. She returned to the classroom at the end of her career with such grace. For years as a retiree she spent a day each week reading to children and giving teachers a break. May she rest in peace.*

Mary Waight - September 25, 2020 at 09:49 AM

SH

Mrs. Thonis was my preschool teacher. I will always remember how kind and compassionate she was as my first teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. A beautiful life well lived. 💔

Susan Hamel - September 25, 2020 at 04:04 PM

ND

“ Lucille was not only my mentor when I transferred to Varnum Brook from the High School! I was very pregnant for my second child and she was Momma Bear, always checking on me and showing concern! She was a marvelous teacher, friend, cohort, person as well as a devoted wife and mother. One could always count on Lucille for advice, support, compassion, friendship and love! I carry so many fond memories of her. Please accept my most sincere sympathies. She loved her family and was so proud of all of you! She will live forever in our thoughts and hearts! RIP dear Lucille. You will be in my prayers.

NancyJo Daly - September 24, 2020 at 07:27 PM

HD

“ Lucille was extremely kind to me the first year I taught. Very sympathetic and helpful. I remember her with fondness. Please accept my sympathy.

Helen-Thomas (HT) Donnelly - September 24, 2020 at 07:22 PM

 Mary Crane

“ Dearest Lucille,
I was sad to hear of your passing, wishing I had seen you one more time. You were always a lovely kind classy woman, supportive boss, and dedicated educator. And you were real in your concern and love for your teachers and your students. I was lucky to be one of them. Rest In Peace. Love, Mary (Fahey)

Mary Crane - September 24, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JM

“ Lucille was a fine person excellent educator and loved by many I will remember her for her help and guidance when I was starting out at north middlesex I like others. will miss her .thank you for kindness and friendship. Jim McCormick

Jim McCormick - September 24, 2020 at 12:07 PM