



Dorothy Denny Cumber

April 22, 1934 - July 29, 2025

Dorothy Jean Constance Denny Cumber

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Gainesville, Virginia

With heavy hearts, the family of Dorothy Jean Constance Denny Cumber, 91, of Gainesville, VA announces her peaceful passing, surrounded by family and love.

The youngest of three girls, Dorothy was born on April 22, 1934 in Ogdensburg, NY to Sarah (Pearl) Baker and Arthur Denny. She grew up with her beloved sisters, Mary Vossler and Sally Muehleisen. She was preceded in death by two of her daughters, Judy (Stan) Alexander-Weber and Mary Ellen Rubel, as well as her granddaughter Stephanie Ellingson. Despite such profound losses, she remained a pillar of strength, grace and unconditional love to her family and community.

She leaves behind a remarkable legacy and is survived by her children: Steven Cumber of Stafford, VA; Thomas (Kathy) Cumber of Gainesville, VA; David (Karen) Cumber of Virginia Beach, VA; Seana Smith of Lewes, DE; and Catherine (Steve) Gray of Round Hill, VA.

She was a proud grandmother to: Scott (Elizabeth) Huffmaster, Jenna (Adam) Alexander, Christi (Dave) Alexander, Sarah (Matt) Cottrell-Cumber, Matthew (Nicole) Cottrell-Cumber, Tony (Crystal) Rivera-Silva, Travis (Patty) Rivera-Silva, Taylor (Matthew) Freedman, Jonathon (Ashley) Cumber, Kaitlyn (Tylor) Fee, Kassidy (Tanner) Chaney, Ryan Smith, Samantha Wheeler, Christian

Tanner, James (Mary) Tanner, Joshua (Taylor) Tanner, and Alex Gray. She was also blessed with 25 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

While many things defined Dorothy, known lovingly as “Denny” to most, three qualities formed the core of who she was: her unwavering Catholic faith, her calling as a caregiver, and her deep devotion to family.

A Devout Catholic:

Denny’s faith wasn’t just something she practiced; it was how she lived. She was a committed member of the Arlington Diocese and active in the Cursillo movement. She sang joyfully in the “Joyful Noise” choir at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, VA and was an Oblate of the St. Benedictine Monastery in Bristow, VA. She gave of herself tirelessly, whether volunteering at So Others May Eat (SOME), supporting the L’Arche community for adults with special needs, or visiting and caring for the sick and lonely. Her compassion and service were simply part of who she was.

A Natural Caregiver:

Denny’s nurturing spirit found its perfect home in nursing. After graduating from D’Youville University she began her nursing career. In the late 1960s after returning from Okinawa, Japan she started her longest nursing position at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She served in various units and ultimately became Director of Nursing. Her leadership, skill and warmth left a lasting impression on patients and colleagues alike. Her passion for caregiving extended into her family as well, where many of her children followed in her footsteps, working at the hospital in roles ranging from candy strippers to phlebotomists to clinical staff. Though she retired from nursing in the early 1990s, she never stopped caring for others, especially her growing family.

A Devoted Matriarch:

Above all, Denny was the proud heart of a large, close-knit, deeply loving family. With seven children, 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren and more on the way, she made it her mission to build and nurture every relationship. Whether babysitting, teaching the

grandkids to bake her famous apple pies or banana bread, playing fiercely competitive games and cards, or simply offering a listening ear, she showed up with love, humor, and encouragement every time. She was a steady, joyful presence and unstoppable force of compassion and support.

Everyone who knew her has their own stories and treasured memories, and in those, she will continue to live on guiding, loving and inspiring all of us.

Visitation will be held at Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas, VA on Monday, August 4, 2025 from 6pm – 8pm.

Her Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, VA followed by burial at St. Mary's of Sorrow's historic church, Fairfax Station, VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's of Sorrows Catholic Church Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 5. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Rosalie and Paula Shipe purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Rosalie and Paula Shipe - August 04, 2025 at 02:47 PM

LD

“ Linda and David Dorsey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Linda and David Dorsey - August 04, 2025 at 10:46 AM

TC

“ Tim Cauthen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Tim Cauthen - August 04, 2025 at 09:08 AM

CF

“ Craig Alderman & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Craig Alderman & Family - August 04, 2025 at 08:26 AM

MF

“ Mel’s family purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Mel’s family - August 03, 2025 at 02:18 PM

MF

“ Mel’s family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy Denny Cumber.

Mel’s family - August 03, 2025 at 02:18 PM

LY

“ Denny was a beloved member of our weekly routines at Highland house in Arlington, Va. She and our other volunteer, Lois, would monthly prepare a “high tea” in the afternoon before dinner. She’d smack our hands away if we got too greedy as she was preparing dinner for our home with a housemate. Her keys were always in the fridge so she wouldn’t forget them.

Denny had a boisterous laugh and a comforting hug. She was a grandmother to those of use who were living at Highland (2007-2013ish). She has been missed at the house since her retirement from volunteering but the memories of her are vivid and joyful. We are so grateful to have loved Denny. She was a steadfast friend to the other auxiliary members of our community.

Liz and Jesse Yoder, former assistants at Highland House, L’Arche Greater Washington DC 2008-2011

Liz Yoder - August 03, 2025 at 09:04 AM

CO

“ Denny was one of the kindest individuals I have ever known. Back in 2011, my mother was dying from lung cancer. My father was taking care of her. Everyone else in my family had to work. Denny offered to come and spend 5 nights at my house so I wouldn't be alone after I came home from the hospital. She slept on a blow-up bed and never complained about it. She was truly a kind and caring person.

Colleen O'Sullivan

colleen O'Sullivan - August 03, 2025 at 01:15 AM

SF

“ SP207 Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



SP207 Family - August 02, 2025 at 09:45 PM

PW

“ 1 file added to the album tribute wall



Pat White - August 02, 2025 at 03:24 PM



Thank you for sharing this video. It was wonderful to hear her voice one more time.

Karen Cumber - August 03, 2025 at 01:10 PM

JB

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Denny. Certainly she was a vivacious and outgoing woman. I met her years ago thru Cursillo and for the past maybe 15 years have shared a book club/prayer group with her. Denny and my husband, George are the same age, she born on April 22 and he on April 24, so for a number of years, I took them out to lunch. What a fun experience that always was! One of my most cherished memories is in 2016 when I came home from the hospital having had a very serious illness. Denny came over and fixed my husband and I a beautiful fish dinner. Of course, it was wonderful as she was an exceptional cook, but most especially because of the great effort she made, laden down with the food for the dinner from her home in Gainesville to Springfield. I remember this very gregarious and generous woman with great love. Joan Brown

Joan Brown - August 02, 2025 at 02:29 PM

SW

“ Stanley R Weber purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Stanley R Weber - August 02, 2025 at 01:49 PM

YB

“ Your Line Dancing Babes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



Your Line Dancing Babes - August 01, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



August 01, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ *Don Aven purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



Don Aven - August 01, 2025 at 01:48 AM



“ *Love from The Haines & Williams families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



Love from The Haines & Williams families - July 31, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ *The SPA team purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



The SPA team - July 31, 2025 at 07:09 PM

TJ

“ *The Vosler Girls, Connie, Kathy and Jean purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



The Vosler Girls, Connie, Kathy and Jean - July 31, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



July 31, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



July 31, 2025 at 03:50 PM

TK

“ *Tanya & Katie purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.*



Tanya & Katie - July 31, 2025 at 03:23 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dorothy Denny Cumber.



July 31, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ Denny was a joyful person and she shared that quality with everyone. She will be missed.

Sylvia Mukherin - July 31, 2025 at 11:11 AM



Denny was an inspiration to many, especially me. She was a kind and loving person to all. I will miss her deeply. Will see her again in the arms of Jesus. My condolences to all her family and friends.

Suzanne (Harrison) Walkewicz - July 31, 2025 at 04:11 PM



Denny and her family and me and mine were neighbors and friends in the early years in Springfield, we met through a St. Bernadette's adult discussion group. Years later, in 2000, we both joined a Cursillo group reunion and renewed our friendship over the next 20 some years, both moving to Heritage Hunt, where we enjoyed centering prayer and mass at the Benedictine Monastery, dinner club with friends, excursions. Denny was the most giving person I have ever met, with boundless energy for embracing life and whomever came her way. Often when I would cross paths with friends of hers whom she had introduced me to they would unfailingly greet me with "oh, you're Denny's friend" -- an honor indeed! My heart goes out to all her family and friends as we treasure knowing and being blessed by her presence.

Audrey Guarino

Audrey Guarino - August 02, 2025 at 10:17 AM

AG

I will make a contribution to L'arche in her honor.

Audrey Guarino

Audrey Guarino - August 02, 2025 at 10:18 AM

AO

Denny was my mentor, I followed in her footsteps, making Cursillo, going to EPS and then JustFaith. I went with her to L'Arche many times and attended Lectio Divina at the Benedictine Monastery because she introduced me to it. Her joy and energy were boundless. After I moved to Fredericksburg and then my husband died, Denny came to visit and went to Social Security with me. I will always remember and treasure the time we spent together whether in Fairfax, Gainesville or Fredericksburg.

Alina Otal - August 02, 2025 at 03:52 PM