



Lois Piper Merkle

August 16, 1930 - February 7, 2018

Lois Piper Merkle died peacefully on February 7, 2018 in Haymarket, VA. Lois was born in Buffalo, New York on August 16, 1930 to the late Emil August and Ruth Pohlman Piper.

Lois loved the outdoors and was happiest when walking, biking, skiing, playing tennis or swimming. She went to SUNY at Cortland and graduated with a degree in teaching in 1952. She was a physical education teacher and following graduation worked in Peekskill, NY, Springfield MA and Denver, CO - with each move trying to get a little bit closer to the ski hill. A treasured memory is when she spent the summer of 1954 bicycling through Europe.

Lois was married to the late Gerard W. Merkle in 1956 and is survived by her four children, Christopher (Beth) of Medina, OH, Jennifer (Jeffrey) of Centreville, VA, Andrew of Alpharetta, GA and Gerard L. of Columbia SC., 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her brother David and is survived by her sister Wilma of Phoenix, AZ.

Lois was a homemaker and was the very best mother, grandmother and wife. She was known for her smile and warm loving nature. She was a long-time member of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, NY and First Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC. She was an ambassador for Christ. She never met a stranger and made it her mission that everyone who

walked into church was welcomed. One of her favorite places was the Pioneer Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Erie in Angola, NY to picnic or vacation with family and friends.

A private viewing will be held for the immediate family on Saturday, February 10 and a memorial service will be held at Fort Jackson National Cemetery in June.

Contributions in memory of Lois can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.