

Rosemarie Burrage Memorial Scholarship



Rosemarie Burrage was born in 1925 to Francis and Mary (Sheehan) Reagan, was a lifelong resident of Westfield, and was educated in the Westfield Public Schools. In her senior year at Westfield High School, she was a proud finalist for the Bronze Tablet Award. After graduating in 1943, Rosemarie pursued her education at the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield. She completed her studies there and graduated in 1946.

The Springfield Visiting Nurse Association was her first job as a nurse, and she loved the time spent visiting and caring for patients in their homes. Rosemarie remained in this job for three years, until her marriage to Don Burrage in 1949. Between 1950 and 1963, Don and Rosemarie brought seven children into the world: Don, Betsy, Patty, Mike, Mary, Rosemary, and Fran. Working outside the home was no longer feasible for Rosemarie. It wasn't too long before there were sporting, academic and musical events to attend. In 1965, Rosemarie returned to part-time work as an RN in private duty nursing. The last ten years of her nursing career would find Rosemarie at Highland, Juniper Park or Abner Gibbs

Elementary Schools as a school nurse for the City of Westfield. She loved her work with the children as her own children were growing up and leaving the nest.

Grandchildren started coming along in 1977, and by 1998, Rosemarie had 16 of them! This meant many more years of sporting, academic and musical events which kept her busy. She couldn't have been happier as these activities kept her connected to her community. These were even more important to her after her husband passed away in 1996. Throughout their marriage, Rosemarie, Don and their children would spend a week together each summer vacationing in Maine. This tradition continued for 50 years with children and grandchildren enjoying special family time together.

Rosemarie dearly loved the City of Westfield and followed all the local news by faithfully reading two daily newspapers. She passed away in April 2014, and she would have loved that she is being remembered through a Memorial Scholarship. Rosemarie would have wished much future success to the worthy recipient of this scholarship.

Written by: Patricia (Burrage) Lieppman
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