

Colleen Wheaton (Miller) Page, 77, passed away on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at the Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, Vt.

Colleen was born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on May 13, 1934, the daughter of Harry and Marion (Wheaton) Miller. She was a graduate of St. Johnsbury Academy, class of 1952, and later earned an associate degree in dental hygiene from the University of Vermont. Colleen first worked as a dental hygienist. She later served as a dental educator in the Caledonia Central, St. Johnsbury and Essex Caledonia School Systems. This was a very new and innovative program at that time. She later received certification as a para-educator and worked as a Chapter I aid in both the Blue Mountain Union School in Wells River and in the Barre Elementary school.

Colleen married her husband Burns R. Page on August 20, 1960, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in St. Johnsbury. They first lived in North Troy where she bore her first daughter Cynthia, then moved to Peacham where she bore daughters Julie and Janice. While residing in Peacham, Colleen served as a house mother, where many young women considered her their "Mom" away from home. Colleen later relocated with Burns to Barre Town in 1985.

Very active in her communities, Colleen served as a 4-H and Girl Scout counselor, a Sunday School teacher, and was an active member in both the St. Andrew's Church and the Church of the Good Shepherd where she served as a member of the vestry.

Among her many interests, Colleen loved gardening, feeding her feathered friends, knitting and crafting. She was a gifted seamstress who created many wonderful outfits for her children and grandson over the years and knitted many hats and mittens that are still worn and treasured today. Colleen was an avid sports fan and long time Red Sox fan. She and her husband were also well traveled within the United States and celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in London, Scotland and Paris.

Colleen was predeceased by her grandson, Adam Scott Brunell on July 12, 2011. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Burns R. Page of Barre, daughters Cynthia Sulham and her husband Daryl of Ryegate, Vt., Julie Page and her husband Billy Ramage of Yukon, Okla. and Janice Patry and her husband John of Windham, Conn.; one brother, Dr. Richard Miller and his wife Carol of Exeter, N.H. and one niece and three nephews.

Calling hours will be on Friday, March 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch Street, Woodsville, NH. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 31, at 11 a.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 39 Washington Street, Barre, VT with Father Craig Smith officiating. The burial will follow at the Peacham Village Cemetery, Peacham, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking donations to be made to Project Independence, 420 Washington Street, Barre, VT 05641 or the Mayo Nursing Home, 71 Richardson Street, Northfield, VT 05663.

Ricker Funeral Home, Woodsville, N.H., is in charge of arrangements.

For more information or to offer an online condolence please go to www.rickerfh.com