



Dolores Brigham

October 25, 1932 - November 14, 2024

We are sad to announce the death of Dolores Brigham, near Asheville, NC. She died peacefully early on November 14th. Dolores was born and grew up in Binghamton, NY, where she ranged through the city on horseback as a young woman. Later in life, she lived in Saugerties, NY; Providence, RI; Asheville, NC; Carlisle, PA; and San Marcos, TX. She is survived by her daughters Paula Dedek and Lisa Wolfe, and her son Peter Dedek, and by her beloved Belgian sheepdog Luca. Her husband Emil W. Dedek and her subsequent life partner David Noreika preceded her in death.

Dolores began her career as a draftsman at Link Aviation in Binghamton in the early 1950s, later went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degree in mathematics from Binghamton University, and taught high school math. In 1980, Dolores secured a position as a computer engineer back at Link Aviation working on software for flight simulators. She worked as a computer scientist for the remainder of her career.

Dolores was an avid reader, prolific traveler, determined athlete, and expert dog trainer. As a child, Dolores enjoyed fishing with her father and going on adventures with her beloved cousin Susan during summers at Silver Lake, near Montrose, Pennsylvania. As an adult, she was a feminist when few women were. She loved to read both fiction and nonfiction; anything interesting and thought-provoking; although later in life she refused to read

fiction written by men. When she was a housewife in the 1950s and 1960s, she read the classics and especially loved the work of somber Russian authors, such as Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. Wishing to escape the drudgery of housewifery, in 1969 she left her children with their father and went to Puerto Rico for an intensive study in Spanish. This summer trip sparked a life-long love of travel. She traveled all over the United States and went on numerous international journeys with her son, Peter, to places as diverse as Italy, Peru, Bosnia, and Morocco. She also was a runner for many years and finished two marathons while in her fifties.

Her greatest avocation, however, was her love of training, showing, breeding, and taking her dogs on walks in the woods. Her many extraordinary dogs earned numerous championships and obedience titles, many advanced agility titles, scentwork titles, and Tracking Dog Excellent. She traveled throughout the Eastern United States and Canada to show her dogs and while doing so cultivated life-long friendships with dogs and their handlers throughout the region. In addition to their many achievements, all of her show dogs, mostly Belgian sheepdogs, and basenjis, were beloved family pets and companions. Dolores loved being with her dogs in nature and particularly enjoyed hiking in the Catskills, Adirondacks, and the Blue Ridge Mountains. She was thoughtful, loving, and a good friend. We will miss her.

There will be a memorial service at Bella Vista, 55 Piney Mountain Drive, in Asheville on Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Brother Wolf of Asheville at: <https://www.bwar.org/> , so they can rebuild their dog shelter and adoption center after the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bella Vista Gracious Retirement Living
55 Piney Mountain Drive
Asheville, NC 28805
<https://seniorlivinginstyle.com/bella-vista/>

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Paula, Lisa, and Peter... I last spoke to Delores about 2 years ago. She seemed to be saying goodbye, saying that I was a good person to David and he was the love of her life. She had many visitations from him, even as far as feeling a hand put on her back at night, him sitting on her bed and talking to her, and other dreams that she couldn't accept as 'real'. Her dog was the comfort she had left after a very active and energetic life doing what she was good at and loved. David was immediately with her when he died on Sept. 09, 2020. He believed they were true "Soul Mates", and was sorry for the last years he lived without her and the pain he caused her. She had so much info about her and David's life together that is now lost to me forever.



A bit psychic myself, today I felt an urge to look her up, yet knowing that she had passed. Bless her always. She has been released from her suffering and reentered into the Peace that will never again die. I'm sorry for your loss and may you and your families be safe and happy in the years without her.

Love, Jana Noreika Sullivan

Jana Sullivan - January 30, 2025 at 02:19 PM