

THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, BETTE ANN POWELL SNEED.



After leaving Ithaca in the mid 1950s, Bette and her family moved to Huntington, NY, where her parents resided until 1972. Her parents moved to Fort Myers, FL, and were there for many years.

Bette attended *Huntington High School*, then went on to *Russell Sage College*, now known as *The Sage Colleges*, for one year. She then transferred to *SUNY Oneonta* to complete her undergraduate college studies.

Her studies did not end with *Oneonta*. She received a Master's Degree in Reading from *Long Island University/C.W. Post*, and also spent two summers at *Saint Anne's College* at *Oxford University* in England. Bette continued to take college course work at various institutions for her entire teaching career, in order to expand her knowledge in the field of education.

After graduation from Oneonta, she was employed as an Elementary School teacher for three years in Brockport, NY.

She spent two summers in West Virginia with the *VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America)* program, also known as the Domestic Peace Corps, teaching reading to children in the area, and a summer on Long Island working with the *Head Start Program*.

Bette left Brockport, and returned to Long Island in 1970 to teach elementary school near where we live.

Bette and I, Ted Sneed, met in October of 1972, and instantly fell in love. We were married on August 3rd, 1974 in Smithtown, NY, and remained deeply in love until her passing on June 8th, 2015. We had no children.

In 2000, Bette accepted an early retirement offer from her school district, and embarked on another new chapter in her life. She volunteered at many clubs and organizations to which we belonged, and put her entire heart and soul into each new project that came her way.

She was an avid photographer, and won many awards in photography with the *Garden Club of America (GCA)*, both on the local level, and national level. She received her last

photography award, a 2nd place in a Black & White class, four days before she passed away, at a major GCA show which her local chapter put on, and she was the Co-Chair of. I was so proud of her work, and her commitment to everything she did on behalf of her Garden Club. The very last photograph that I ever took of her was at *Cornell Plantations* of her taking a photograph...four days before she entered the hospital on May 6th, 2015. Photography was her passion.

Bette's father, Harry Powell, passed away in 1985 in Fort Myers, FL, and Bette's mother, Elizabeth Powell passed away in 2013 in Rochester, NY, just seven weeks shy of her 100th birthday.

Both parents were graduates of *Cornell University* in Ithaca, NY, and both have their ashes scattered beside a memorial bench along the *Johnston Trail* in the *Cornell Plantations*, which they donated to *Cornell* in 1984. I laid Bette's ashes to rest with her parents on June 27th, 2015, her 73rd birthday.

She is survived by me, Ted Sneed, her loving husband, and two sisters. Ruthellen Powell Hoyle of Rochester, NY, and Noelle Powell Lennon of Bayville, NY and Myrtle Beach, SC.