



Dr. Sharon Louise Desvousges Hartman

February 21, 1947 - January 3, 2020

On Friday, January 3, 2020, Dr. Sharon Louise Desvousges Hartman died peacefully at home at the age of 72.

Sharon was born in 1947 in St. Augustine to George Louis and Wilma Gibson Desvousges. When Sharon was in second grade, they moved to New Smyrna Beach, where she made lifelong friends, fished with her dad, and loved the beach. She graduated from New Smyrna Beach Senior High School in 1965. Sharon attended the University of Florida, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Education in 1969. It was there she met the love of her life, Mike, with whom she celebrated their 50th anniversary last June. After Mike's brief stint in the army, they lived in Gainesville, where she taught second- and fourth-grade at Idylwild Elementary School.

In 1972, Sharon and Mike settled in Tallahassee, where they raised their daughter, Patricia. Sharon taught in the gifted programs at Sealey Elementary School and Killlearn Lakes Elementary, as well as college students at Thomas College and Florida State University. She was very proud of her students, many of whom remained in touch throughout her life, even dating back to her Gainesville days.

While raising a toddler and completing her doctorate in Reading and Language Arts at Florida State University, Sharon was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 31. Her initial prognosis dire, she prayed to live until Patricia turned twelve. When she reached that benchmark, she decided it was time to renegotiate that agreement and went on to become a 42-year survivor.

She was a leader in the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery Program, providing critical support to newly diagnosed patients from a survivor's perspective. The Reach to Recovery Team was heavily involved in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Relay for Life (MSABC). Along with her fellow team members, Sharon coordinated MSABC fundraising events, regularly contended for top fundraising team, and provided inspiration for patients and family members at their survivors' tent.

Sharon had a profound love of children's literature, a passion she shared with readers of all ages. She worked with the Leon County Public Library and Literacy Council to bring nationally recognized children's authors to Tallahassee. She served on the State Library Council for the state of Florida, as a board member of the Florida Reading Association and the Friends of the State Library & Archives of Florida, and as a selector for the Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) Program. In her "spare time," she started a company, Bookfinders for Children, to bring quality books to book fairs at schools around the county and to order the books for Little Folks Store. When her mother moved to Heritage Oaks Senior Living, she also launched the Bookworm Book Club at Heritage Oaks.

Sharon's community involvement was not limited to cancer outreach and literacy. In 1984 she was named Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Center of Leon County and in 1986, Woman of the Year by the Tallahassee Junior Woman's Club. Her efforts with the Tallahassee Junior Museum Board of Trustees were especially notable. She and Mike served a term as Market Days Chairpersons and ten years as building coordinators. In addition, she coordinated the Swamp Stomp and numerous other fundraisers to keep museum operations running smoothly. She also remained active in her Kappa Delta Sorority and was inducted into the Order of the Pearl in 2003.

Sharon understood that each day was a gift to be treasured. She had varied interests and hobbies and an amazing, diverse group of friends. Some will remember her as an avid Gator fan, others as an inspirational educator, a saltwater fishing aficionado, a crazy book woman, a mean mahjong player, an

expert traveler with a special love of France and Italy, or one of the Nasty Women. However, all who knew her will remember her positive attitude, thoughtfulness, tenacity, and chocolate cake. To all who will miss her, “catch this hug!”

Survivors include her husband, Mike Hartman of Tallahassee; daughter, Patricia Hartman of Auburn, Alabama; brothers- and sisters-in-law Frank and Pat Hartman of Indianapolis and Bill and Peggy Hartman of State College, Pennsylvania; nieces Michele Desvousges Mathis of Panama City Beach, and Kate Hartman of Alexandria, Virginia; nephews Dan Desvousges of Gainesville, and Michael Hartman of Valdosta, Georgia; and a host of cousins and a family of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Edwin Gibson Desvousges; and her nephew, Tod Greenfield Hartman.

A celebration of Sharon’s life will be held at 3:00 on Friday, January 10 in the Carriage House at Goodwood Museum & Gardens, 1600 Miccosukee Road. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Sharon’s name to the Tallahassee Museum, 3945 Museum Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310 or Second Harvest of the Big Bend, 4446 Entrepot Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32310.

The family would like to give special thanks to her friend and caretaker, Susan Bailey; her therapists at TMH, Amber, Helene, and Rachel; and her wonderful network of friends who brought food to the house this past year.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Hartman family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 10. 3:00 PM (ET)

Goodwood Museum and Gardens
1600 Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall



“ 145 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Bevis Funeral Home - January 09, 2020 at 06:17 PM

BS

“ *Sharon will be missed by the Tallahassee community... and missed so much more by her many friends. Prayers of comfort to her family. Be in His arms with Peace, Sharon.*

Bobbi Shapiro - January 08, 2020 at 03:09 AM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Joyce Kai - January 06, 2020 at 09:23 PM

LP

“ Sharon was such a special woman, she loved her students and they loved her in return, she taught my oldest son in the KLES gifted program....she made learning fun. I even got the privilege to work with her there also. I would run into her periodically and she was always genuinely interested in what was going on in my son's life even more than 20+ years later. She will be missed. 🙏

Lisa Peacock - January 06, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Sharon Louise Desvousges Hartman.



January 06, 2020 at 03:56 PM

BJ

“ Sharon was so kind and loving. She was an earth angel for sure. Love to Mike & Patricia.
“Catching the hug!” Cousins Barbie & Scott and family

Barbie Johnson - January 06, 2020 at 02:15 PM

GM

I am so saddened of this news. Sharon was LIFE. She was such a positive influence on every life she touched. I was blessed to meet Sharon when her Mom moved to Heritage Oaks/Allegro. She immediately became a very special part of our family and the love continued over many years of Breast Cancer Awareness events and fundraisers and ultimately with Reach to Recovery. Sharon.... I will always love you and never forget you. Thoughts and prayers go out to Mike and the entire family.

Gail McDonald - January 06, 2020 at 08:54 PM

CM

I'm so sorry to hear this. She was a gentle soul with a kind heart!

Claudette McCann - January 07, 2020 at 08:24 AM

SO

Sharon was truly "one in a million," cherished by her family and loved by multitudes of friends. She did so much good during her lifetime, done in such a gentle, unobtrusive and humble way that drew people to want to work with her. Sharon was so very kind to everyone. We feel blessed to have known such an accomplished, competent and lovely woman. Sharon, you will surely be missed! We love you! Mike and Patricia, we are thinkiing of you! With Love, Cousins, Sandra, Bill, Will and Charles & Family.

Sandra Olinger - January 09, 2020 at 11:19 AM