Service Summary

Memorial Service
11:00 AM Sat Feb 11, 2012

McConnellsville Community Church
Main Street
McConnellsville, New York 13401

Obituary

Beverly Jean Orton Harden passed away January 27th in Williamsburg, Virginia, the “second home” to which she returned with her family in 2008. Beverly was born May 7, 1929 in Camden, New York, the youngest of four daughters of Henry Royal and Ethel Van Alstyne Orton. She graduated from Camden High School in 1947, and earned her Associate’s Degree from Cazenovia College in 1949, where she was named Ideal Senior.

On February 16, 1952 Beverly married Neil F. Harden and, after living in Williamsburg, Virginia for a year while he completed his military obligations at Ft. Eustis, they returned to McConnellsville where they raised their children, Terry and Lisa.

A devoted homemaker, Beverly was also very community oriented. While a young mother, she became Charter President of the McConnellsville PTA and Den Mother for the Cub Scout pack. She reactivated the Alumni Association of Camden Central School, serving for a time as its President, and reactivated and coordinated the American Red Cross bloodmobile in Camden for several years. She was asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Rome Chapter of the American Red Cross. A choir member and Sunday School teacher, Beverly also served on the Board of the McConnellsville Community Church, including one term as President. In addition, she was named President of the Camden Medical Center Board, a post she held for many years. Beverly was asked to return to her alma mater and serve on the Board of Trustees of Cazenovia College. Upon completion of this term, she became Chairman of the College’s Former Trustee Committee. In recognition of her dedication to the College, Beverly was given the Lifetime Giving Award and the College’s first Distinguished Service Award and, in 1989, the Most Distinguished Alumni Award. In her hometown, Beverly served on the Board of the Harden Foundation, and was a 60-year member of the McConnellsville Garden Club and the McConnellsville Golf Club. She was well known to her friends as a remarkable cook and accomplished watercolorist, but she would like most to be remembered as a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Michael Brickey of Williamsburg, and their daughters Rachael and Doug Dean, Providence, Rhode Island and Martha Brickey of Richmond, Virginia; and a sister, Mary O. McDaniels, in Lakeland, Florida, and several nieces and nephews. Her husband, Neil, and son, Terry, predeceased her in 2007 and 2000 respectively, as well as her sister, Rena M. Lesczynski in 2009 and Gladys E. Orton in 1928.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, February 11, at 11:00 a.m. at the McConnellsville Community Church, Main Street, McConnellsville. Memorial contributions may be made to the Neil F. and Beverly Orton Harden Scholarship Fund at Cazenovia College, 22 Sullivan Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035; or Hospice House, 4445 Powhatan Pkwy, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the LaRobardiere Funeral Home, Inc. 109 Main Street, Camden, NY.