

Theresa Herda McCaughey

Memorial Endowment

1952-2002

Theresa was born in Devils Lake ND in 1952 to Floyd and Betty Herda. She attended St. Joseph's Elementary School and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1970. She was an honor-roll student, played the flute in the school band, and was involved in other school and community activities. After high school, from 1970 to 1972, Theresa attended Lake Region Junior College in Devils Lake. She then moved to Grand Forks to pursue her interest in social work. She graduated in 1974 with a bachelor of arts degree from UND.

After a brief first marriage, Theresa returned to UND in 1978 to study nursing. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 1980 from the University of North Dakota. It was while working part-time

at United Hospital in Grand Forks as a student nurse that she discovered her love of caring for premature and sick infants. She spent her entire, distinguished career nursing in neonatal intensive care units in several hospitals.

It was while she was studying for her nursing degree that Theresa also met her future

husband, Ian McCaughey, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, who was completing his master's degree in education at UND. After graduating, Theresa settled in Grand Forks and began her full-time nursing career at United Hospital.



In 1983, Theresa and Ian were married, and the two settled in Winnipeg. Theresa began work shortly afterward at Winnipeg's Children's Hospital in the Neonatal ICU. She was a staff nurse in the unit where she enjoyed the challenges of a large, urban hospital and the opportunity to do air transport nursing to outlying regions of the province.

In April 1986, the couple's first child, Keith, was born. Several months later, Theresa, Keith, and her husband moved west to Regina, Saskatchewan, where

Ian started a new teaching job and the couple settled into a new home. Their second child, Andrew, was born in 1990, and their youngest, Colleen, came along two years later. While raising their family, Theresa was employed in the Neonatal ICU at Regina General Hospital where she continued to provide dedicated nursing care to premature

and critically ill infants until her own health prevented her from doing so.

When Theresa was not working at the hospital, her husband and three children were the focus of her life. She volunteered at her children's schools and was always there for their concerts, dance recitals, and sporting events. All three of her kids were active in hockey, baseball, and basketball, and she rarely missed a game. She also loved her garden and spent hours relaxing there in the summers. Theresa and her husband and children also made regular trips home to Devils Lake to visit her parents, brothers, and other relatives and school friends.

Theresa's life took a tragic turn in January 1996 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the next few months she was treated with radiation, chemotherapy, and surgery. After a period of convalescence, with her cancer in remission, Theresa returned to work in the Neonatal ICU for four more years. In the spring of 2002, her cancer,

unfortunately, returned, and after a brave fight she succumbed to the disease on October 8, 2002.

Theresa's love for and dedication to her nursing career was outstanding. Colleagues remember her as a talented nurse and a valued team member who served as a mentor to younger nurses with whom she worked. Her willingness to share her knowledge with others was a reflection of the value and respect she held for the educational opportunities she enjoyed throughout her life.

Theresa touched many lives as a caregiver, a mother, and a genuine friend. She will be recalled fondly by those who knew her as a warm and loving wife and mother who always had a smile and a kind word for others. ■



Family of Theresa Herda McCaughey
Keith, Ian, Colleen, and Andrew

7/08/10