



## Dorothy A. Pettit

July 30, 1931 - March 11, 2016

In New Haven March 11, 2016 Dorothy A. Pettit, 84, of Hamden passed away after a short illness. She was born in New Haven on July 30, 1931 daughter of the late George and Rose Zemetis Pettit. Survived by a brother Richard Pettit of Orange, nephew Richard Pettit of Waterford, and a large family of cousins including Betty Panaroni, Vincent Panaroni and Bruce Lawler. Dottie was a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. She continued to pursue her education for her entire life. She was well read and always willing to share her knowledge. After a 13 year career as a Registered Medical Technologist (A.S.C.P) including 9 as the chief Medical Technologist in the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center-Dorothy made her decision to switch careers to fulfill her dream of pursuing a career in the academic world. Focusing on Early 20th Century American History, she earned her B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa), M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of New Hampshire. A recipient of the Newcomen Society in North America Award in Business History for the historical research, her M.A. thesis focused on "The Presidential Election in New Hampshire," and her doctoral dissertation titles; "A Cruel Wind: America Experiences Pandemic Influenza, 1918-1920," lends much content to this present book. After overseeing school volunteer programs for the New Hampshire Council for Better Schools, Dr. Pettit taught history at New Hampshire College and the University of New Hampshire. Dottie always had a strong faith. Her love of church, family, and friends made her a unique individual. Dottie was the original "empowered woman" always moving and ready to try something new. She was an energetic member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Phi Beta Kappa Society, and an avid follower of the UCONN women's basketball team. Go Huskies! She lived a full life dividing her many years between New Hampshire, Chicago, & Florida but always returning to her home in Hamden. Her door was always open and her quick phone calls spurred her friends and family to action.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated Wednesday at 10 a.m. in St. Stephen's Church. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions to St. Stephen's Church 412 Ridge Rd. Hamden, CT. 06517. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden in care of arrangements. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)



# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

3102 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT

# Previous Events

## Funeral service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephens Church  
412 Ridge Rd.  
Hamden, CT

# Tribute Wall

JZ

“ I am Dorothy's first cousin, Joan, her mother, Rose's, niece. My father was Dorothy's uncle George.  
I knew dot my entire life. She always came to our family picnics and gatherings at my parent's home in North Haven. My father and dot even drove cross country in 1978 to get my car out to San Francisco while I was doing graduate work . they had a good adventure. Dot was always fond and respectful of her uncle George, who died one year ago one. She was at his funeral. I had spoken to her a few months ago reflecting upon the wonderful photos we shared of the zymajtis family members.  
I will member dot for her keen intelligence. I was startled to learn of her sudden passing and sad that her mother's family members were not contacted about her recent illness and her passing. I will remember her dedication to staying in touch with my father and me throughout her life. May she rest in peace in God's loving hands surrounded by her departed family and friends.  
With love,  
Joan

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Joan zymajtis - March 14, 2016 at 11:26 PM

JB

“ I have valued the friendship Dot & I have shared over these many years. Although we attended the same high school in New Haven, I really got to know her when she moved to Chicago. We both worked at Passavant Memorial Hospital and enjoyed a great friendship which continued through these many years. A great memory was seeing her joy in learning how to drive a car on the Old Soldier's Field in Chicago...followed by driving through the winding streets on the north side of Chicago. She then bought that car and immediately headed east. We have had many great phone conversations since. I will miss hearing her voice.  
  
Joy Buersmeyer  
Boise, Idaho

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Joy Buersmeyer - March 14, 2016 at 06:15 PM