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Dana Alessi Obituary

Editor

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It is with sadness that I report to you, the friends and colleagues of Dana Alessi, that Dana passed away on November 26. Her mother, Louise, has been a constant care-giver since the diagnosis of brain cancer in May. The last weeks, hospice care also provided additional support for Dana.

I am sure many of you were influenced by Dana whether in career decisions or shared personal hobbies. Her inquisitive mind, zest for life, and bubbly laugh will be what she would want you to remember.

She traveled the United States and abroad extensively and made many friends through the years. She delighted in these friendships, formed through her job contacts and love of figure skating, and kept in touch with many people regardless of where her job and home were located.

As her cousin, Dana was my mentor in life. I followed her lead in obtaining a bachelor’s degree that led to my teaching Latin in high school and also loved and participated in instrumental musical groups. Although our taste in music was slightly different, we both loved musical theater. I became a public librarian in 1970 and then went on to my present job as a high school librarian—a bond of similar career choices.

Below is the obituary Louise and I sent in for the newspapers.

Sincerely, Lois McNicol, Dana’s cousin
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OBITUARY

Dana L. Bennett Alessi died after a six month battle with brain cancer on Wednesday, November 26, 2003 at home in Las Vegas, NV. She is survived by her mother Louise W. Bennett. Dana won the National Spelling Bee competition as a representative of the Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO) in 1957. Dana received her BA in Classical Languages from the University of Colorado-Boulder, MA in Classical Languages from Indiana University-Bloomington, and her MA in Library Science from University of Missouri-Columbia. She received the Phi Beta Kappa recognition. She served as Acting Director of Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and later became Head of Acquisitions at the University of Houston. Her employment continued as she worked for Blackwell’s North America from 1978-1989 becoming Director of Standing Order Services and Director of Monographic and Selection Services. Dana transferred to Baker and Taylor Books working as Director of Sales and Marketing for academic libraries from 1989-1999. Dana authored over 11 articles in a variety of professional journals. Dana served on more than 16 committees of the American Library Association and presented workshops at state, regional, and national association conferences as well as mentored many people in the library and book industry. She moved to Las Vegas, NV, in 1999 where she worked for Ovid Technologies, KNOP, Gaming Today, and most recently served as general manager for TPL Employment Services, Inc. Dana’s avocation was spectator sports of any kind with her favorite sport being competitive ice skating. Over the years, she attended many national figure skating competitions and Olympic figure skating events. She also loved travel and theater.

Memorials have been established with the University of Colorado-Boulder Library for purchasing research materials in the fields of Humanities and Librarianship, the United States Figure Skating Association, Colorado Springs, CO, for the purpose of assisting young skaters in need with training expenses and Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas, NV.

Dana’s request that this verse be her request for survivors

When I come to the end of the day
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we once shared—
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It’s all a part of the Maker’s plan,
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.

Miss me, but let me go.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>