

INDUCTEE

Rosemary Fisher Hensley

Graduated1953

MarriedRichard Hensley

Children.David, John, Sally

Resides.Lehigh Acres, Florida

In high school Rosemary was an excellent student and an active leader as well, participating in as many school activities as possible. She was a cheerleader and was honored to be chosen homecoming queen. She was, perhaps, a typical happy young girl; but after graduation, her serious dedication to others took over her life.

She enrolled in the Grant Hospital School of Nursing, graduating as a registered nurse in 1956, during which time she was elected to serve as president of her nursing class. She then dedicated her life to assisting and caring for others. In the 36 plus years she has worked in the nursing field, she has served as night charge nurse and became a certified oncology nurse. Finally, before she retired, Rosemary spent two years as a hospice nurse in a modern and caring facility. She firmly believes that people should be able to leave this world with dignity and calm. Her skill and compassion during her career were evident when she was chosen by her peers to receive the Excellent Performer Award. It has been said of those who choose this field, "Oncology nurses are very special people and Rosemary has proved herself among those ranks."

Even though she is officially retired, Rosemary's compassion, especially for the elderly, guides her as she continues to serve patients and shut-ins in their homes or other facilities. As an active church member, Rosemary has spent countless hours assisting those who need her. She regularly visits with the sick in their homes to offer communion to those who can't get to church, assistance wherever it's necessary or just a hand of friendship. Even though it is difficult to lose one of her patients/friends, she is sustained by her faith and continues to serve others where and when she can.

For years Rosemary and her husband Dick were a part of the Bread Ministry, transporting donated baked goods 50 miles to those who had little, to migrant workers and those in homeless shelters. They became welcomed visitors to that town. Rosemary has also enjoyed caring for the Memorial Rose Garden, a special project of her church. Keeping a beautiful garden nurtures a beautiful soul, which may explain why Rosemary finds gardening "to be very comforting and a release for her."

Her family, too, have experienced Rosemary's compassionate acts of kindness and love. Over the years she and Dick have offered very special care to older family members who grew unable to care for themselves and suffered from serious illness, taking them into their home and tending to their special needs. Rosemary still involves herself with the care of others outside her home when needed, but these days she spends much of her time seeing to the needs of her family members and assisting her church.

Rosemary and Dick have three grown children and seven grandchildren who fulfill their lives in many ways. They have made their home in Lehigh Acres for 23 years.