



## Celeste M. Hoegler

January 10, 1947 - May 25, 2020

Celeste M. Hoegler, 73, of Centerville, OH passed away peacefully at Kettering Memorial Hospital on May 25, 2020 with her husband at her bedside.

Celeste was born to Earl and Josephine (Pressler) Johnson, January 10, 1947 in Van Buren Township (later Kettering, OH). She attended Southern Hills Elementary School, Dwight L. Barnes Jr. High School, and graduated Fairmont West High School - Class of 1965. She achieved an Associate in Business Degree from Miami-Jacobs College (1967), a B.S (Cum Laude) in Business Administration (Organizational Management emphasis) from Urbana University (2003), a Paralegal Certification from Capital University Law School (2004), the Inaugural Class of the Kettering Leadership Academy (2004), and a Master of Public Administration degree from Wright State University in 2009. Her professional working career included The Dayton Power and Light Company, Wright State University (College of Marketing), and the Dayton Progress Corporation (aka: Lamina).

Celeste was married to Michael Hoegler in 1971. Together for exactly 49-years, their individual strengths were perfectly complementary. She is survived by her husband and their two married daughters, Alyson (Corey) Veit of Columbus, OH, and Lauren (Jason) McNeily of Springboro, OH. She also leaves eight wonderful grandchildren and five nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death last year by her sister, Winifred (Johnson) Soltz.

In 1997, Celeste encountered a very rare form of neuroendocrine cancer. Five years after the tumor's removal she was told she was cancer free, and 20-yrs later suffered an extremely rare re-appearance that she valiantly battled to the end. As a participant in the Wright State Medical School Donor Program, she hoped her medical case history would provide researchers with clues to aid other cancer victims. She highly valued the incredible doctors, staff, and facilities at The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute at OSU in Columbus, OH

Business administration and organizational skills were a paramount part of Celeste's life.

She and other Fairmont East and West graduates of 1965 began an outreach effort in the mid-1970's to ensure that their nearly one-thousand classmates could maintain contact with each other wherever they lived around the world. Over the past 50-years, finding "lost" classmates was a true labor of love that provided Celeste incredible personal satisfaction and amazing friendships. Consistently - from her grade school days in the Centerville system to her high school days at Fairmont - she cared deeply for her family, friends and neighbors. It was her greatest strength. She regularly took flowers or meals to the home of sick neighbors and friends. She called the husband or wife of a sick spouse offering help and consolation. And she always ensured that every child who crossed her threshold was safe, healthy and happy.

Hearing the funny foibles of her grandchildren and being with them was her joy. She loved to watch videos and hear the sounds of happy children. She was also her daughters' greatest fan, cheerleader and protector. Celeste loved her kitchen and enjoyed the processes of cooking -- collecting recipes, finding ingredients, testing them on willing subjects, and preparing the gift of good food, drink, and conversation for friends and family. And she always broke her own rules for M&M Peanuts, Esther-Price and Dairy-Queen! It is almost fitting in retrospect, that on Memorial Day when we honor our fallen heroes, our personal hero took to her wings. She will forever be loved, as she loved all of us, and sorely missed by so many.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Celeste on Thursday, June 25, 2020 from 3:30PM to 6:30PM at the Westbrock Funeral Home located at 5980 Bigger Road in Kettering, OH. A solemn moment will occur at 6:00PM, as family and friends engage in prayer and eulogy led by Ms Robin Barnes McCarthy; providing a moment for personal reflection — remembering and celebrating Celeste's life, her connections with us, her love, kindness, and incredible support to her family, friends, and community.

"In lieu of flowers, on-line donations can be made in Celeste's memory to the OSU Neuro Endocrine Tumors Research and Program Fund (310389) via:

<https://www.giveto.osu.edu/makeagift/?fund=310389>

or by making a check payable to: "The OSU Foundation" and adding a separate note that states, "Fund #310389, in the name of Celeste Hoegler".

The check mailing address is: The OSU Foundation, PO Box 710811, Columbus, OH 43271



# Events

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**JUN 25** **Celebration of Life** 03:30PM - 06:00PM

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Westbrock Funeral Home  
5980 Bigger Road, Kettering, OH, US, 45440

**JUN 25** **Memorial Service** 06:00PM

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Westbrock Funeral Home  
5980 Bigger Road, Kettering, OH, US, 45440

# Comments

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“ I first met Celeste Johnson Hoegler in 1955 as a student in Mrs. Kraft’s 3rd grade class held in the basement of the Centerville Baptist church on Franklin Street in Centerville, Ohio.

The good Lord smiled on me that day, for I met two of the most kind and wonderful people I’ve ever met, on the same day; Mrs. Kraft and Celeste Johnson!

I was the new kid, and there was empty desk directly in front of Celeste’s.

I was immediately drawn to her by her warm gentle smile. While the other kids in the class went about their business or just looked at me strangely, Celeste greeted me, asked me my name and accepted me without question.

I asked her name, and she replied “Celeste Johnson” with a smile and extended her hand.

I had read every book about flying and space written for kids at the time, and I knew what her name meant...“of the stars, of the heavens.” I said, “Do you know your name means?”

“The Heavens”!

I know of no kinder, more caring and more gentle a person whose life and nature were more accurately described by the name they were given, than Celeste.

Our paths were to cross many times during our lives and in many ways.

Often, years passed, but she was always a ray of sunshine. She always had a smile, a kind word and she was always genuinely glad to see you again!

And amazingly, even though we had ties of family friendship, we were more linked in more ways than I ever knew at the time.

It is the honest truth to say that I always felt better about the world, about life, and about myself after each encounter!

She was a giver, never a taker! She was truly a caring person for all she knew.

You know, of all of the kids in Mrs. Kraft’s class, Celeste is the only one I remember!

There was something very special about Celeste that I have seldom ever seen in another human! “Little Miss Sunshine”...

You will be greatly missed!!!

Wayne



“ Andrea Pease Plaisted lit a candle in memory of Celeste M. Hoegler



Andrea Pease Plaisted - June 26, 2020 at 07:44 PM

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“ Jeanie lit a candle in memory of Celeste M. Hoegler



jeanie - June 26, 2020 at 07:22 PM

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“ I was fortunate enough to know Celeste as a neighbor and friend. I always enjoyed our conversations. She truly loved her family. Prayers to Mike, Alyson, Lauren and their families.

Celeste - Rest In Peace my friend,  
Charlotte

Charlotte Hansen - June 24, 2020 at 11:38 PM

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“ Celeste  
Was a very kind and generous woman.  
First day I met her we became very good friends.  
I miss her, she was a diamond.of a friend.  
Rest in Peace my friend.  
Loved you  
Marvalene

**Marvalene Raglin** - June 23, 2020 at 04:34 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Celeste M. Hoegler.



June 22, 2020 at 10:05 AM

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“ Celeste was the bedrock of Fairmont alumni. She gave so much of herself to keep us connected. Rest in peace Celeste. You are missed.

**Paul Marshall** - June 21, 2020 at 08:41 PM

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“ Mike. Although Cynthy and I were saddened to hear of Celeste's passing, we know that you and your family have a lifetime of shared memories that you will cherish forever. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Gary & Cynthy Turner

**Gary Turner** - June 21, 2020 at 03:23 PM

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“ Mike, Allison, Lauren and family,  
Vince and I were saddened to read about her passing. She will be remembered and missed.

Diane and Vince Popp and family

**Diane Popp** - June 21, 2020 at 01:55 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Celeste M. Hoegler.



June 21, 2020 at 01:15 PM

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“ Celeste and I were friends at Centerville Junior High. We saw each other at a class reunion, but lost touch over the years, as I had moved to Hawaii. Seven years ago she spotted me in a Facebook photo my daughter had posted, and we reunited by text. Whenever I would visit my mother in Centerville, Celeste was the only former Centerville classmate I'd connect with. Celeste visited me with my mother at her Senior Home, brought flowers to my mother when she returned home, and attended my mother's 100th birthday party. I truly appreciated her kindness and her cheerful company. We kept in touch with frequent texts and exchanging photos of our grandchildren. I know how much her family meant to her, and I send my love to all of you. I know how much she will be missed. I miss her too!

**Kristie Browne** - June 20, 2020 at 04:44 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Celeste M. Hoegler.



June 19, 2020 at 08:27 PM

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“ Celeste was an elementary school classmate, a friend at church and later a bridesmaid in our wedding. We lost contact for several years but thankfully reunited. The last three years she faithfully visited us at Lincoln Park Manor when we were in town to see my mom. She was always so sweet to her. It's a true friend and caring person who voluntarily engages in those difficult visits...a testament to her unselfish and loving character. So thankful our paths crossed.

Gloria (and Neil) Wetz  
South Carolina

Gloria Wetz - June 19, 2020 at 12:10 PM

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“ “When the Kettering Leadership Academy was created in 2003 Celeste Hoegler was in the first class and quickly became a role model for what community leadership is all about. She enthusiastically worked on projects with other classmates and after graduation she took on project after project to make lives better for other people. I particularly remember her enthusiasm as she put together a class reunion of Fairmont graduates. Celeste bubbled with enthusiasm and a brilliant smile as she move forward with her ideas. She had a never give up attitude which I believe encouraged other people to follow her guidance. Celeste will be truly missed by all who had the privilege of being within her circle of friends.”

Bruce E. Duke  
Kettering City Councilman

Bruce E. Duke - June 18, 2020 at 04:48 PM

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“ I first met Celeste when we both attended the first Kettering Leadership Academy class. We hit it off immediately, and usually worked together on any project given to the group during those four days at camp. I mentioned to her I went all through Beaver creek schools with a guy named Dave Hoegler. Turns out he was her brother-in-law. And her husband, Michael, graduated with my brother. Small world. I shall miss Celeste's positive attitude, always smiling, and fierce determination in whatever she set out to do. Rest now, my friend.

Debbie Allen - June 15, 2020 at 11:20 AM