



# Martha Emerling-Garrett

OCT 27, 1958 - DEC 16, 2016



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# Martha Emerling-Garrett

OCT 27, 1958 - DEC 16, 2016

**M**artha Emerling Garrett, 58, passed away suddenly in her Lewes home on December 16, 2016. Her loving parents Jerome Martin and Helen Marie (Frink) Emerling of Perry New York preceded her in death. In the last twenty years Martha lived in Newark, DE; Lansdowne, PA; and Haddonfield, NJ.

Martha held a Masters Degree in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT and a Bachelor Degree from the State University of New York in Fredonia, NY. She worked in a variety of non-profit leadership roles including serving as the Director of the Schwartz Foundation in Mount Laurel, NJ and simultaneously as the Director of Foundations, Inc, a youth development program promoting academic enrichment in out-of-school-time. She was a leader in her field creating partnerships with school districts and developing out-of-school programs within schools; enabling Foundations, Inc. to invest funds in direct services and not building expensive facilities.

Martha also served as Special Assistant to the President and CEO of Northern Home Children and Family Services in Philadelphia, PA where she supported better client outcomes through the utilization of nationally recognized standards of best practices and continual quality improvement frameworks. She was an organized, focused and thoughtful administrator who led with great integrity. She recently returned to Lewes to become the founding Director of the Cape Center for Movement Disabilities.

Martha had many interests including art, gardening, music, decorating, fashion and cooking. Although she suffered with a visual impairment, Martha had incredible vision and saw beauty in intricate details of life. She enjoyed collecting art and had tremendous admiration for handwork such as quilting, needlepoint, and knitting.

Most importantly Martha loved life and people. As an administrator she was beloved by her co-workers. Family and friends treasured her easy smile, quiet laugh and gentle presence. She brought light, laughter and life everywhere she went. She dealt with her physical limitations with



## Obituary

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courage and hope and never complained. She was interested in others and always avoided being the center of attention. Her deep sense of humility touched all who knew her.

Martha is missed by many friends and both her own and her husband's families: Her husband of 20 years, Richard Garrett of Lewes, her sister and brother-in-law, Mary Jo and Dale Hewitt of Concord, North Carolina; and two brothers and sisters-in-laws, Tom and Margaret Emerling of Billings, Montana; and John and Elizabeth Emerling of Perry, New York.


A Celebration of Life is planned for January 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. A luncheon will follow in the church hall. Arrangements are being handled by Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematoirum, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, Lewes, DE.

In lieu of flowers, Martha's family suggests donations to the Cape Center for Movement Disabilities, P.O. Box 657, Lewes, DE 19958.


Please sign Martha's online guestbook located on this site.

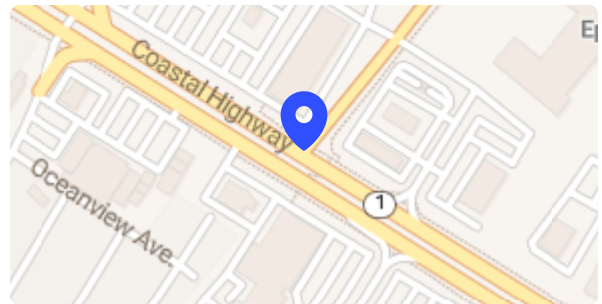


### Celebration of life

 **Friday**, January 27, 2017

 11:00 AM ET

 **Epworth United Methodist Church**  
19825 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach DE





## Tribute Wall

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RB

**Robt. Bennett** posted:

I'm so sorry for Martha's loss to her family and our world. While I haven't see her in over 30 years, my fondest memory was spending 24 hours together with her as her partner in a Muscular Dystrophy Dance Marathon at Fredonia. Please accept my condolences and my hope that fond memories of her kind spirit last forever. Bob Bennett

January 25 at 12:04 PM

ST

**Sharon True** posted:

Dear Family, I just read about Martha's passing in the Perry Herald. My heart sank to learn such sad news. I am truly sorry. The world lost a great person. She was one that loved life no matter what came her way and I will always remember Martha as someone that had a big heart and always kind to everyone. She had a smile that you could only smile back at God definitely got a beautiful angel and on the nights you are feeling sad, look to the sky and if it is full of stars, find the brightest one because it is Martha smiling back at you. You will always have her in your hearts just like I did. Our thoughts and prayers are with all you. Sincerely, Sharon and Barry True, Warsaw, NY

January 17 at 6:44 AM

CF

**Cheryl Howden Fagan** posted:

Martha was my very first friend as a child. We became best friends in kindergarten and remained that way all through our school days. We spent many days at each other's homes, but I always enjoyed running around Emerling Farms. Back then it was one barn and we would use the milk house roof as a slide! We wore out a few pair of pants that way. When Martha and her family moved into the village, it was even better, that was THE spot to go to after school activities and basketball games. Mrs. Emerling was a wonderful, soft spoken woman. When Martha came home at Christmas time while in college and after moving away, we would always spend a day together with our friend Gigi! So many good memories. I remember when Martha was about 12-13 she got Rheumatic Fever and ended up in the hospital for a while. I rode up with Mr Emerling to visit Martha. I also remember visiting Martha's grandmother who was in a nursing home (or at least that's what I remember) in the Buffalo area, after our visit he would take us out for a nice meal. We visited the family "homestead" in Boston NY as well. So many memories, too many to share. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the service, which breaks my heart, but Martha knows she is in my thoughts and prayers. She was a kind soul, and deserved to be with us for a lot longer. Many hugs to the family. Rest in peace my friend! Cheryl Howden Fagan

January 2 at 9:18 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Marleen Cowie** posted:

Although I never met Martha, just the fact she came from Perry and was raised as an Emerling farm kid, she had to be good at what she wanted to do. Perry/Wyoming Co. farm kids stand strong. Sorry for your loss.

December 30 at 5:42 AM



**Barb Shelton** posted:

A wonderful woman..I will miss my funny, sweet buddy.Barb Shelton

December 28 at 10:20 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Martha by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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