

Nettles. Diane Lynn (Langworthy) Nettles, 65, for 14 years the beloved wife of Lee Nettles died unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at Baystate Medical Center. Born on June 7, 1950 in Buffalo NY, Diane was the daughter of "Peg" (Hutchinson) Langworthy and her late husband Forest Langworthy. Having graduated from St. Mary's School for the Deaf in 1970 she then attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf from 1970-1972. She worked for the Connecticut Department of Public Health, for over 21 years having retired in June of 2014. She taught American Sign Language and Deaf Studies for 35 years and was an adjunct Professor for both Elms College and Holyoke Community College for many of those years. Diane was a fierce advocate for deaf rights and had recently won a landmark federal lawsuit against Netflix to provide closed captioning for all deaf and hard of hearing individuals nationwide. Extremely active in various deaf communities, at various points she served as president of the Western Massachusetts Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired from 2002 to 2015, was co-chair of the Deaf Awareness Committee for the Western Massachusetts Deaf Leaders' Group where part of her duties would be to create the exhibit booth at Eastern States Exposition in which thousands were educated and had volunteered regularly for the Stavros Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services. Having been appointed by Governor Deval Patrick, Diane also served as a member of the Statewide Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf. She also dedicated her time to the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf Springfield Division #67, was part of the Sign Language Instructor's Pool of Connecticut, and a member of the Deaf/Blind Association of Connecticut. Diane is also survived by a daughter Lynn and her husband Paul Deneault of Newington, CT, her son Jason Roche and his partner Jennifer Moody of Enfield, CT, grandchildren Sabrina, Autumn and Caleb Deneault, a step grandson Will Moody, sisters Carol Jerose, Sharon Langworthy, Gail Babirad, her husband Jurgen, nieces Becky French and Mandy Babirad and a nephew Kyle Babirad and was predeceased by a brother Dana Langworthy. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent one of the following: The Stavros Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services, Western Massachusetts Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired or the Baystate Deaf Senior Center

The family will hold a memorial service for Diane in the spring of 2016.

