



## Dorothy Wilford

November 28, 1915 - November 6, 2011

Dorothy Van Valkinburgh Wilford died Sunday, November 6, 2011 in Murrells Inlet in the home and loving care of her daughter and son-in-law, Lorraine and Norman Perry. Mrs. Wilford grew up in Altamont, NY, born to Charles Henry Van Valkinburgh and Margaret Eleanor Severson, of the Severson family who were early settlers in this community. She enjoyed participating in Girl Scouts, hiking the Indian Ladder Trail up the Helderberg Escarpment, being a youth leader at the Dutch Reformed Church, selling oysters at the Altamont County Fair, and waitressing in the Adirondacks all day and then dancing half the night.

She went to Oneonta Normal School and became a teacher, and then met the love of her life, Charles Arthur Wilford, who was also a teacher. They married during his military service, 12/23/1942, and were a devoted couple until he died March 18, 2011. After his military service Mr. Wilford taught high school in Tarrytown, NY, and the Wilfords lived first in North Tarrytown and then Ossining. Mrs. Wilford returned to teaching, and taught elementary school in Briarcliff, NY, and then Ossining NY, where she taught 2nd grade for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Wilford retired to the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina in 1984.

Dorothy Wilford enjoyed an active life, with skiing, golfing, swimming and dancing, as well as worldwide travel, theater, and music, especially opera.

She valued natural beauty, education, independent thinking, and above all the Golden Rule, and she passed on these values to her daughters. In her later years her vibrancy was muted by Alzheimer's, but she continued to be loving and caring till the end.

Mrs. Wilford is survived by daughter Lorraine Perry and husband Norman, daughter Linda Wilford and husband Randall Ham, granddaughter Jennifer Perry, grandson Jason Perry, his wife Danielle, and their child, Mrs. Wilford's great-granddaughter Kamryn. She is also survived by her cousins Herbert and Howard Schaible. She is predeceased by her sister Eva Engvold and husband Ken, and by her other Schaible and Fowler cousins.

The family would like to thank the caregivers who helped Mr. Wilford take care of his wife at home until Mr. Wilford died, and who continued to help take care of Mrs. Wilford after she moved to her daughter's home. We are also thankful for the support of hospice, which enabled Mrs. Wilford to die peacefully at home. And we would like to thank the good people of the Myrtle Beach area who frequently came to the aide of this loving elderly couple as they enjoyed dinners out and enabled them to continue to live independently until a very old age.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfunerahome.com/obituaries](http://www.goldfinchfunerahome.com/obituaries)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

LP

“ *In the final days of my mothers life, I realized that all of the memories that were coming to me were times when my mother was laughing. She had such a wonderful sense of humor and her laughter was infectious. Such an amazing spirit.*

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**Lorraine Perry** - November 12, 2011 at 06:02 PM

LW

“ *20 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Linda Wilford** - November 07, 2011 at 10:49 PM