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**The Honorable Mary Ann Stepler(1942 - 2014)**

 The Honorable Mary Ann Stepler passed away on December 11, 2014 at the Washington Hospital Center.

Mary Ann, the daughter of Robert Edward Duey and Phyllis Lucille Hess Duey was born on November 7, 1942 in York, Pennsylvania.

She was predeceased by her husband, Howard Russell Stepler, Jr., whom she married on August 8, 1963.

Mary Ann is survived by her sons, Howard Russell Stepler, III and wife Angela Lynn Gantz of Sharpsburg, MD and Robert Tracey Stepler of Frederick, MD; her loving grandchildren, Alexandra McClain Stepler and Kaede Lynn Gantz of Sharpsburg, MD; sister Karen Duey Bevier and husband Lewis, niece Michele De La Rosa and husband Kevin, and their children, Andrew, Blair and Kaitlynn of Frederick, MD, cousin Dr. Richard Mikesell and several other cousins.

Judge Stepler received her B.A. degree from American University in 1967 and graduated Cum Laude from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1974.

Mary Ann loved journalism and started her career as a reporter in 1967 for the Morning Herald in Hagerstown and the Montgomery County Sentinel. After graduating from Law School, she was admitted to the bar in 1974. Consequently, she became a law partner with her husband to form Stepler and Stepler, 1974-1980. She then became an Assistant State's Attorney for Frederick County 1975-1980, Chief Prosecuting Attorney, 1977-1980. Mary Ann then became an Associate Judge of the Frederick County District Court 1980-1982 distinguished as the first woman judge in Western Maryland. Judge Stepler then served as the Administrative Judge of the Frederick County District Court, 1982-1986 and was appointed as an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Frederick County, a position she held from 1986 until her retirement in 2003. Judge Stepler was a member of the American Bar Association, Maryland State Bar Association, Bar Association of Frederick County, American Judges' Association, and the National Association of Women Judges. She was admired and respected by her colleagues and was a mentor to many young attorneys.

In her spare time, Mary Ann enjoyed collecting vintage buttons, glassware, antiques, pop up books, and "Alice in Wonderland" items. She was an avid gardener. She was also a musician and played violin with the Greenspring Valley Orchestra from Stevenson University.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2014, 2-5pm at the Worman's Mill Community Conservancy, 2470 Stoney Creek Road, Frederick, MD 21701.



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