



## Linda Wertz Swisher

May 5, 1943 - August 19, 2021

Linda Wertz Swisher, 78, entered into eternal life on August 19, 2021. A resident of Siesta Key since 1978, she was a mother, grandmother, friend, nurse, author, and educator.

Born in Springfield, Ohio on May 5, 1943, Linda moved to Sarasota in 1971 with her husband and two children. She was a nurse at SMH, taught nursing at Sarasota County Vocational-Technical Center, eventually becoming a department chairperson. She served as the program director of Health and Fire Science at Sarasota County Technical Institute.

Linda was an author of anatomy and physiology textbooks and online curriculum for Mosby/Elsevier Science Publishers. She served as a national advanced trauma life support educator for the American College of Surgeons, where she taught ATLS to emergency room physicians and trauma surgeons throughout the United States. When she accepted the appointment, she was one of only twelve instructors nationally qualified.

She received her registered nurse diploma from Good Samaritan School of Nursing. Linda received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of South Florida, where she graduated magna cum laude. In 1980, she received her Master of Arts degree in Education from USF; and in 1995 she received her Doctor of Education degree from Nova Southeastern University.

She was appointed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush as a member of his Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. In 1999, she was the Florida Association of EMS Educators Program Director of the Year. She also was elected as a commissioner for the national Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools in Washington, D.C.

No list of accomplishments can do justice to Linda and the positive impact she had on those who knew her. In addition to her keen intelligence, absolute integrity, a charismatic personality, and sense of humor, she was selfless in her devotion to her family and friends; they were always at the center of her life. Linda's three grandchildren, Heather, Maddie, and Billy meant the world to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Betty and Arthur Wertz; her sister Penny Wiedeke; and her husband, Bill Shearer. She is survived by her son, Sam Swisher, Jr.; her daughter, Amanda Veigh; three grandchildren, Heather Swisher, Maddie Fortner, and Billy Fortner; and her many wonderful friends, all of whom enriched her life so monumentally as she did theirs.

Donations in Linda's memory can be made to All Faiths Food Bank, 8171 Blaikie Ct., Sarasota, FL 34240, or Cat Depot, 2542 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34234.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ I worked with Linda for many years in our authoring team in human anatomy and physiology. Many generations of students (and their patients) have benefitted from her ability to teach through her books and other educational resources. She was an inspiration and delightful friend to me, and I will miss our longtime collaborations.

*Dr. Kevin Patton*

---

**Dr. Kevin Patton** - September 23, 2021 at 05:48 PM

AN

“ Please accept my condolences on behalf of Linda! As a fellow EMS educator and former president of Florida Association of EMS Educators, Linda was a dear friend and mentor. Always positive and cheerful! I will miss her smile. May she rest in peace and may God comfort you during this difficult time.

*Angel J. Nater*

---

**Angel Nater** - September 10, 2021 at 02:58 PM

JD

“ Please accept our condolences on Linda's passing and know our prayers are with you as you mourn her loss and celebrate her life.

*Even after Bill's passing, Linda remained a part of the Bill Shearer International Advanced Life Support (ALS) & Basic Life Support (BLS) Competition held annually for decades as part of our CLINCON Event or clinical conference that allows EMS personnel and the advisory council Linda served on to gather, learn, compete and unite as emergency medicine professionals in service to others.*

*She will be missed, especially during the next (her) presentation of the Eugene Nagel Trophy for the life savers and victors of the competition bearing Bill's name.*

*Thank you for sharing her life with us.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jonathan Dolan  
Executive Director  
Florida College of Emergency Physicians  
e: [jdolan@emlrc.org](mailto:jdolan@emlrc.org)  
c: 314-540-4400*

---

**Jonathan Dolan** - September 09, 2021 at 10:08 AM

SH

“ I am sorry to hear of my dear friend and neighbour Linda. Because of COVID I didn't see Linda since I left for home (Canada) in March 2020. We did keep in touch on the phone or by email. She did watch over my place in my absence and for that I was very grateful. I was looking forward to reconnecting this fall. She had faced some health challenges in the past few years but was always optimistic and faithful about her exercising to keep in shape. Rest In Peace my friend, you will be missed.

*Sandra Hinch  
Canada and Sarasota*

---

**sandra Hinch** - August 31, 2021 at 06:16 PM

LB

“ Sam and Mandy, letting you know how sorry I/we are to learn that your mom has passed. I dont know if you remember me/us but we worked at Peppertree, and watch you both grow up. Linda and your Dad and us had a great friendship. I hope that you and your families will remember all the memories that you all have shared and made throughout the years of being together. May you find your comfort as each day passes.

*Lisa Beach, Sandy Gilmore, Ildiko Pall and Roberta Palentino.*

---

**Lisa Beach** - August 31, 2021 at 07:38 AM

LL

“ *What a shock I received when I read of Linda's passing! I was a student in the LPN class of 1985 she taught. She was so kind to me and arranged for me to meet people who gave me my first job in the field and a long career that followed.*

*Up until the start of covid we met every year around New Years to have dinner in our favorite thai restaurant and to catch up. We became friends and I so regret that we missed last New Years get together. We both developed health issues, but I see Linda's were much more serious than I understood.*

*My deep condolences to her family - she is a great loss to many!*

*Sincerely,  
Lois Levine*

---

**Lois Levine** - August 29, 2021 at 07:32 PM

JH

“ Linda and I worked together since 1977. I recommended her to Gov. Bush to be appointed to the Florida Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and she did a great job representing us and the EMT/Paramedic profession and went on to serve nationally in other capacities. Linda was a warm, caring, supremely intelligent individual whom I also counted as a valued friend. We served together for a number of years as Department Chairs at SCVTC, she as Nursing/EMT and I as Allied Health. Our hardest job was having to remove students who failed their drug evaluations. We always gave them recommendation on how to "clean up their acts" and get back into our programs. She truly cared about the lives and education of the students in her programs and made every effort to see them succeed. Linda was a great advocate of "never stop learning" which she practiced in her own life as well. Linda will be sorely missed, not only by her family and friends, but by the Medical Community of not only Sarasota, but of Florida and our country.

---

**Judy White Harris** - August 29, 2021 at 12:18 PM