

**Celebration of The Life of Connie Turner Tefft**

**(Kim Reads)**

**On Behalf of our family we would like to welcome you and thank you for joining us today to celebrate the long life of Constance Turner Tefft.**

**Some of you here have known Connie most of her life. Some of you have come to know her in her later years and some of you only knew her through those of us who loved her so we would like to take you for a small journey of Connie's wonderful life.**

## **(Jackie Reads)**

**My mother, Constance Turner was born on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 1921 the daughter of Ernest “Steb” Turner and Gladys (Schumacher) Turner in the town of Clinton. Connie as most called her was their third child and only daughter. She had two older brothers Steve & Bob and three younger brothers Mike, Wesley and Walter.**

**In Connie’s words she wrote “My five brothers were all in the US Army Air Force. The three oldest were jet pilots and two of them were also ski jumpers. I remember my parents, brothers and I all going to watch Steve compete in the Lancaster Outing Club’s annual ski jump on nearby George Hill every Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>,”**

**Connie grew up in the lively Turner home in South Lancaster with her loving parents, sandwiched between five rambunctious and respectable brothers. Like her brothers Connie attended Lancaster public schools and then went on to the Worc Trade School where she obtained education in hairdressing.**

**Connie fondly recollected her childhood memories of sometimes escorting her father when he made house calls to shod horses at various farms through out the region.**

**She wrote the following in 2004 “ I remember my dad making horse shoes on a forge and nailing them on the horses hooves. He wore a heavy leather apron so the sparks wouldn’t burn him when he shaped and pounded them. The sparks would fly wildly with every blow of his busy hammer”**

**When Connie was around seven years old her mother inherited a \$1,000 from an aunt and with this money her parents bought a camp on Spec Pond in Lancaster.**

**Connie, her brothers, cousins and numerous other extended family and friends enjoyed many happy days playing, swimming, boating, and relaxing there in the summer months. The summer was given wholeheartedly to the family camp.**

**The Turner’s moved out of the house in South Lancaster as soon as school was out and went home just in time for school to begin again.**

(Kim Reads)

My Grandmother Connie then met the love of her life Francis Joe Tefft during one of those happy summer days on Spec Pond. They married on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1939.

Connie and Joe settled into Clinton where they put down life <sup>THEIR</sup> long roots. It was difficult for them starting their new life together but they worked hard and saved their money ~~for a rainy day.~~

After a few years of renting Connie wanted to buy a house and she knew just the one she wanted. Joe <sup>My GRANDFATHER</sup> was a conservative cautious man and refused to buy on credit.... He told her they didn't have enough money to purchase the house and she said "it is all set" we can get a loan at the bank. Connie had made up her mind and told Joe she was moving into the house with or without him and if he wanted to join her he could.... He did!

Connie & Joe welcomed the birth of their daughter Jackie born on March 1 1940. Seven years later their son Greg was born. They were a close family spending time <sup>TOGETHER ON SIMPLE VACATIONS</sup> vacationing and <sup>w/</sup>visiting relatives. Jackie helped her mother care for Greg while <sup>she</sup> Connie worked. *and* Connie's mother Gladys also lived with them for several years.

Connie became my grandmother 2 days after her 40th birthday! I was the first born grandchild and 19 months later my sister Andrea joined us. We spent many happy days growing up with our grandparents. We lived close by and got to see them often.

Then several years later Greg & Marsha would add to the collection of Tefft's with the birth of their daughter Ericka and son Matthew. It was fun having little ones around again!

**(Jackie Reads this or Andi Reads her own)**

**Connie worked for many years as quality control for ITT Suprenant inspecting cable wire. She loved her job and had many co worker friends there. Connie was a very proud woman and always took pride in her appearance! She was a beautiful woman and liked to dress nice..... and her hair, oh boy her hair! She was a true red head in every sense of the word. She would be on the beach in her bathing suit with perfect hair! Her hairdresser was considered immediate family and her (Claudette) telephone number was listed on the call in case of emergency phone list. There was nothing more important than her Friday afternoon hair appointment.**

**She took great pride in her home and yard which she loved dearly. She mowed her own lawn, weeded and planted her flower gardens and snow blowed the driveway well into her 80's.**

**Connie was fussy! No one could do the job quite as well as she could so it was hard for her to loose her independence during these past few years.**

(Kim Reads)

Connie took on the almost impossible job as caretaker for her husband during his long illness. His wish was to be at home and she cared for my grandfather like she was a trained nurse. At the time she was in her 70's and we would often ask ourselves how the heck she did what she did? When Joe could no longer walk that did not stop Connie! She maneuver that 500 lb wheelchair in and out of the trunk of the car like it weighted 10 lbs and off they would go. It was a daily grind for her but she loved him <sup>FOR 60 YEARS</sup> until death <sup>60 years</sup> do us part.

*CONNIE'S NEICE Cindy so beautifully wrote in a sympathy note.*

*Connie survived all of the brothers that she shared a path with this time around. She survived her only son and then later, her husband's passing. She did it with tenacity for life that was so strong we sometimes called it stubborn. And yes she was vain about her appearance but beautifully so and I doubt that it was ever offensive to a single soul...it was just...well, Connie's way.*

~~It was so today because I would like to visit with her again.~~  
~~She always seemed to genuinely care about what you had to say and her stories about her brother's growing up were treasures.~~  
My Auntie Connie seemed to look at life straight on and just keep going no matter what circumstance tried to knock her down. She was a strong example to follow and I know that this last year had been a real trial for her because she wasn't able to do it her way.

**Connie was a take charge strong woman. She taught us all many lessons in life, to respect others, to work hard, and to never stop trying. But most of all she taught us all how to love and be loved.**

**Connie lived well beyond her expected years with a heart condition that took most of her family. She was a fighter through it all and right up until the end....**

**Connie felt gratitude to the doctors and the medications that gave her her health & longevity. Respectfully Connie donated her body to the Anatomical Gift Program where the student physicians at the University of Massachusetts medical school will benefit by the studies performed.**

**Connie will be in our hearts forever** *and*  
*She WILL TRUELY be missed.*