

Renate A. Mielenz

1934-2014

Administrative Assistant

After a brief illness, Ms. Renate Mielenz, a treasured former employee of the German School, passed away December 2, 2014.

Renate was born in Berlin, Germany on January 10, 1934. Her parents were Margarete and Helmuth Zorn. She married Klaus Mielenz in Washington DC in 1959. She returned to Berlin for a brief time where her son Frank was born. Upon her return to the U.S. in 1963, she became a U.S citizen while residing in Kensington, Maryland where her daughter Monica was born.

Ms. Mielenz enjoyed working in the administrative office of DSW for almost 17 years, from October 1979 to June 1996. She began her employment as a receptionist but soon took over the position of assistant to the principal. Later, she was appointed the position of assistant to the Board of Directors. No one could imagine the administrative team without her.

Ms. Mielenz was part of the generation that practiced the art of stenography, which she often put to use at membership meetings. Yet when the administrative offices were furnished with computers, she was the first to master the "art of modern technology."

She also proved to have other exceptional strengths, one of which was translating from German into English and vice versa. We will always fondly recall her friendly smile and outstanding diplomacy, and many of the DSW community will certainly remember her effortless style and flair.

Upon her retirement she moved to Anne Arundel County and spent her remaining years caring for and enjoying her grandchildren. She especially enjoyed cooking for friends and family, traveling, and reading.

Our sincere condolences to her children, Frank Mielenz and Monica Sondberg, son-in-law Terry Sondberg and her grandchildren, Morgan Mielenz, Alicia Sondberg and Eric Sondberg; and to her sister Annette Helbig and brother Karl Zorn from Germany.

A memorial gathering was held on Saturday December 6, 2014, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockville, MD.

