Virginia Lee Byers

LEAWOOD - Virginia Lee Byers, 81, of Leawood, died on Oct. 30, 2004, at her home, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

She was born March 1, 1923 in Pittsburg to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lee Plagens. She attended Pittsburg public schools where she played the string bass in school orchestra and sang. She graduated from high school in 1941, attended Pittsburg State University for two years where she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She received her R.N. from Bethany Medical Center, in addition to a Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree from Central Missouri State University. She was on the Dean's List during her college years. Following a early career in nursing, she began her career in teaching. She choose speech pathology, where she helped many children overcome and deal with speech impediments and learning disabilities. She remained in speech pathology until her retirement in 1993.

She was a member of the Country Club Christian Church, a lifetime member of the Missouri Speech, Language and Hearing Associating, Retired Teacher's Association of Missouri, Kappa Delta Pi Honorary Education fraternity and Alpha Gamma Delta social sorority.

Survivors include her sons, Frank C. Byers Jr. of Charlottesville, Va., and Paul A. Byers of Leawood; two daughters, Judith White of Dallas, and Susan Susz of Kansas City, Mo.; her sister Margaret Engle of Pittsburg; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo. Private graveside services to follow.

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