



Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler

October 7, 1946 - April 11, 2022

In the early morning of April 11th, 2022, Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler (75), an educational trailblazer and philanthropist, passed away peacefully in her Jupiter home. She was preceded by her husband, Alexander “Sandy” M Lankler and her parents, James Kenneth Ashworth and Phyllis Kathryn (Stoker) Ashworth.

She is survived by her siblings: Patti (Ashworth) Billingsley, Linda (Ashworth) Valente, and Bill Ashworth, as well as a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, close friends, and colleagues. She will be missed by many and remembered for her educational legacy and altruistic endeavors with wounded veterans.

Born October 7th, 1946, as the youngest of four children, Sara grew up in a nurturing and traditional, middle-class family in West Palm Beach, Florida. She was an enthusiastic and accomplished athlete as a gymnast, runner, and diver. Through sports she learned to accept challenges and risks, value feedback, and collaborate with others. This clashed with her first-grade education experience and sparked a drive to make changes in the field of education.

After graduating from Palm Beach High School, Sara went to Blue Mountain College where she obtained a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Counseling at

the University of Mississippi. In 1969, while at Ole Miss, she met Muska Mosston who introduced her to “The Spectrum of Teaching Styles”—sparking her life-long passion. For nearly three decades, Sara and Muska worked to expand on and spread the Spectrum to other countries across the globe. They published several articles and books together with Sara completing her Ed.D. in Education from Temple University in 1983. The following year they conducted an 11-month European Lecture Tour comprised of 87 presentations. Even after Muska’s death in 1994, Sara continued to develop, expand on, and evangelize the Spectrum of Teaching Styles.

From 1987 to 2008, Sara taught the Spectrum at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), where she received every teaching award given there. She met her second husband Emmett Laurence Tabat, in 1995, and received her Honorary Doctorate from the Faculty of Sport and Health Science in 1996 from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland.

Sara met her third husband, Alexander “Sandy” M Lankler in 2003. Together they started the Renewal Coalition to assist wounded veterans smoothly reenter civilian life and have already helped hundreds of people so far. Her work on the Spectrum of Teaching Styles has influenced and contributed to the teaching of physical education and more all around the world. Her crowning achievement was the establishment of the Spectrum Institute for Teaching and Learning which will to continue to spread the methodology and pedagogy of her lifelong passion worldwide.

The family is holding a celebration of life event on May 21st from 4 to 6 pm. In lieu of flowers, a donation to either of the following charities in Sara’s name is appreciated: The Spectrum Institute for Teaching and Learning, and Mercy Ships.

Tribute Wall



“ *Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories with Sara*



Nita Hanlon Wilkinson - January 05, 2023 at 04:06 AM



“ *Meeting Sara at the FEPSAC worldconference in Halkidiki 2007 in Greece is a moment I'll never forget. Inspired by her energy, performance and coaching on the Spectrum I was able to work on the theme 'desicion making in sports and movement Education in the Netherlands.' Sara supported me and stimulated me. Since we first met, Sara and I met several times in the following years to studie the subject and discus aspects of the Spectrum. Always constructive and with a lot of space to learn. I will here.*

Frederik

Frederik Gobbels - May 10, 2022 at 02:06 AM

AK

“ I do t know where to begin, Sara and Sandy changed my life. I am forever grateful for that. As our working relationship grew, I found a true friendship with Sara. She inspired me to be a better person. She was always someone I looked up to. Her wisdom and knowledge, no matter what subject, was something I will miss. She not only opened her door to me, she became a family member to myself and my children. I have so many wonderful memories with her,
I will always treasure her being my life!

Annie Kimmel - May 02, 2022 at 09:47 AM

CS

Sara was an amazing woman so kind and smart. She will be missed by all.

Connie sullivan - May 03, 2022 at 08:53 AM

AK

“ Annie Kimmel lit a candle in memory of Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler



Annie Kimmel - May 02, 2022 at 09:36 AM

DJ

“ She was a sweetheart and an awesome lady. It was my good fortune to have known her.

Dick Johnson - May 02, 2022 at 09:02 AM

AM

“ Beautiful obituary for a truly amazing person. Sadly I will miss her service but will be thinking of all her friends and family as they honor her that day.

Andrea Modica - April 27, 2022 at 01:33 PM

AM

“ Andrea Modica lit a candle in memory of Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler



Andrea Modica - April 27, 2022 at 01:30 PM

DG

“ Daniel Garcia lit a candle in memory of Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler



Daniel Garcia - April 25, 2022 at 02:03 PM

FC

I just found out about her passing and my heart is broken. Sara was an amazing woman. She and her late husband Sandy were both so dedicated to helping veterans recover that they founded Renewal Coalition in Jupiter and turned over their property to be used by this wonderful organization. Every time I saw Sara she was committed to helping these men and women who had served their countries. May she rest in peace and be blessed for all she did for others.

Fran Carlton May 8,

Fran Carlton - May 08, 2022 at 03:41 PM

NW

I knew Sara from elementary school until her passing. She was always an inspiration to everyone she encountered. We renewed our friendship at our 20th high school reunion and continued to keep in touch until her death. When I got no Christmas card last month, I knew something had happened. I am sad but know she is at peace with all her family and friends that shared her extraordinary life. RIP, Sara.

Nita Hanlon Wilkinson - January 05, 2023 at 03:57 AM