

Rena Chernick 1926 - 2009



RENA CHERNICK MONTPELIER - Rena Chernick, 83, Dental Hygienist, Member of Vermont Board of Dental Examiners, advocate for the arts and community, dies. Rena Chernick, simply "Rena" to all who knew and loved her, died while returning from a dental convention in Hawaii on Oct. 5. She was 83 years old. Rena was active in the world of dentistry and dental examination. In 2004, she was named by Governor James Douglas to the Vermont Board of Dental Examiners. Rena was engaged in many civic affairs in Montpelier and Warren, including President and Board Member of the Central Vermont Hospital Auxiliary and Member of the Board of Directors of the Central Vermont Hospital, to which she was deeply devoted. She was also a longtime member and former vice president of the Valley Rotary Club in Warren-Waitsfield and served on the Board of Directors, Central Vermont Red Cross. She was a dedicated supporter of the arts and served as President of Children's Ballet of Vermont for many years, was a lifetime member of the Vermont Federation of Garden Clubs, and belonged to many other arts, and civic associations. Rena pioneered the participation of dental hygienists on state and regional Boards of Dental Examiners. She was first woman and hygienist to be appointed to the Rhode Island Board by the Rhode Island state governor in 1976. Later after moving to Vermont and entering into private practice, she was named to the Vermont Board, becoming the first dental hygienist to serve on two state dental boards: Rhode Island and Vermont. Rena was married to Irwin Chernick, an attorney in Providence, R.I. They bought a home in Warren, Vt. in 1963. Irwin Chernick died in 1982, just as the family was moving full time to Warren. Rena continued to live in Warren until 2005, and then moved to Montpelier. As a young widow, she soldiered on without her life's partner. She continued her professional work until the very end. In her later years, Rena Chernick represented a style of professional woman who remains fully engaged and active professionally into her 80s. Beyond her public life, Rena was known as a vibrant, compassionate and loving woman to her family and friends. At the center of her life was her family. Earlier this year she mourned the premature loss of her beloved grandson, Zdravko, known as Z. She is survived by a sister, Barbara from Burlington; three children and their spouses, Abbie Saad and her husband Essam of Somerset, N.J., Naomi Marshall and her husband Greg of Bellingham, Wash., and Marc Chernick and his wife Tulia of Takoma Park, Md. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Tatijana, Ivan, and Omar; and two step-grandchildren, Camilo and Alvaro Hernan. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel at Vermont College in Montpelier, Vt. For those wishing to convey online condolences to the family, please visit www.barber-lanier.com.