

Letter from Phyllis (Putman) Sullivan

[This is a portion of a letter from Phyllis (Putman) Sullivan—Douglas Putman’s mother—to TATC, written Aug. 26, 1984. The main purpose of the letter was to inform the club of a change of address; she also included a few details about her two daughters, Susan and Debbie, about herself and her new husband ‘Sully’. A busy high school teacher contemplating retirement, she concludes her letter:]

I regret that somehow life keeps me at a pace that I don’t seem to get to visit Doug’s Memorial Cabin. It is such a beautiful spot and you all have done a tremendous job to make the cabin something for us to be proud of—there will always be a special place in my heart for the cabin committee and their years of labor. So, though I don’t get to see you, I am proud to be a life member of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club and I look forward to reading all the news [our club’s newsletters] in the future....

Thank you again for helping the girls and I put some meaning into Doug’s untimely death. It has been 7 years but the Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin helps us to bring back all the good memories.

*Fondly,
Phyllis*

PS my love to Jacque and the Crates—keep in touch!

[Jacque (Jenkins) was club president and took Mrs. Putman’s initial phone call concerning her proposal to have a cabin built in memory of Douglas; the two formed a personal bond and rapport. As members of the Cabin Committee, the Crates (Harold and Margaret) met Mrs. Putman early on as well; they participated in every phase of cabin construction.]