



Ardana J. Titus

March 19, 1952 - May 25, 2018

Ardana Janine Titus, age 66, beloved wife, dear sister, and loving mother, passed away on Friday, May 25 due to sudden illness at Munson Medical Center. Born on March 19, 1952 in Toledo, Ohio to the late A. John and Avis J. (McMullen) Kirsch of Grosse Pointe Park, MI. She is survived by her husband, Wendell E. Titus of Traverse City; brother, Rodney R. Kirsch of Westland, MI; sons, Johnathan W. Titus of Richmond, VA, Benjamin E. Titus of Lansing, MI and Zachary J. Titus of Decatur, GA.

Ardana traveled extensively as a young girl. Her father was a graduate ceramics engineer, and WWII veteran flight instructor in the U.S. Navy. Employed as Manager of Coated Products – Europe, for The Carborundum Company, he moved the family via steamship and train to Switzerland in 1960. Ardana's mother also had a master's degree in education, and arranged many family trips with emphasis on history and culture throughout Western Europe. Eventually, her father's work brought the family to the Detroit area where she attended and graduated high school at Grosse Pointe South in 1971.

Ardana began her college education at Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, MI. Late in her freshman year an unlucky encounter with a deer while driving a VW Beetle forced her to move back home and she transferred to Wayne State University. Her husband Wendell first met her there in the spring of 1973. The two soon became inseparable through common interests and shared adventures aboard the restored 40 year old wooden sailboat, 'Argyle'. She graduated in December 1975 with a BS in Family and Consumer Resources. Wendell graduated from Wayne State in June 1975.

After graduation, the two spent the summer of 1975 aboard the 'Argyle' on a circumnavigation of Lake Huron. Ardana's love of the water, nature, boats, and her fearless spirit was known to all who were lucky enough to call themselves her friend.

Ardana and Wendell were married on June 26, 1976 at Christ Church in Grosse Pointe, MI. As husband and wife, they set sail for Suttons Bay, MI where they spent the summer as Wendell began training as an engineering Cadet at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City.

Ardana worked at Cherryland Electric Co-Op for several years. She later formed a small business that published local artist works in a greeting card line. She was a past president of the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City and worked tirelessly and without

compensation to develop a viable shelter home system funded by a new thrift shop and secured consistent local charitable support. Following a life's dream, Ardana trained and obtained an aircraft private pilot's license. She continued her education in accountancy and business law at Northwestern Michigan College. After her children entered school, Ardana began work with H & R Block in Traverse City, and as a Master Tax Advisor and Enrolled Agent – she had more than 21 years with the company at her passing.

Everyone knew Ardana as a kind loving soul. She worked tirelessly for her children. She took great pride in her three boys graduating from college. As a great believer in education she never stopped learning, and was always engaged in a new continuing education or training program. She was a true patriot, proud of her family heritage, and was a member of the National Society – Daughters of the American Revolution. Ardana's unique blend of love of life, family, friends; her positive attitude and humor; her great integrity; are things that will not be forgotten by those who knew her.

Friends are welcome to visit with Ardana's family from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, July 13, 2018 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth, Traverse City, MI 49684.

A Memorial Service honoring Ardana will take place at 11:00 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the funeral home. Pastor Jane Lippert will officiate.

Memorials may be directed to the General Scholarship Fund, Northwestern Michigan College Foundation at 1701 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Ardana's family at her Tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

JUL 13 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUL 14 **Visitation** 10:00AM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUL 14 **Memorial Service** 11:00AM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I have an early memory of Ardana and Windy that I've kept with me to this day that I would like to share.

When I was around 13-14 years old my family and I visited Aunt Helen and Uncle Windy at their home on North Avenue. While we were there, Ardana and Windy went for a walk with me and we discussed a book that I was currently reading about the law and a lawyer named "Liebowitz". They both were a lot of fun and it made me feel pretty cool to have two older, hip, college students interested in my opinions.

Ardana's thoughts on education and pursuing dreams really impressed me that day. It meant a lot to me for her to share those views, because at that age I really wasn't finding that kind of support in many other places. Both of my cousins, Windy and Ardana, expressed a passion for learning and were happy to encourage me in this pursuit. I remember looking at the two of them back then, at that exciting time in their lives, and thinking they were very lucky to have each other.

It seems the life they were able to share with each other since then, along with their children, was time to be very thankful for. I was so sorry to hear the news about Ardana and sincerely hope Windy, their children, and everyone who loved Ardana will find comfort and strength in all their memories of her during this sad time of loss.

Trixie Fabijanski

Trixie Fabijanski - July 16, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ Ardana is a lot to be missed, she wasted no words. When she was talking, I wanted to be listening. We shared one high school year when she moved to enter GP South as a junior I think. Ardana was a year ahead of me in school, a quick friend of my sister (Sherry), and I remember her immediate popularity as she became involved in student government and everyone realized what an exceptional human being had just joined our school; what good hands we were in with Ardana at the helm.

I moved to a different high school but became acquainted again with Ardana (and Wendell) in the Northwestern Michigan College apartments. From there our relationships grew with careers, kids, and mutual friends. Did you ever behold a Christmas tree trimmed by Ardana's expressive hand? She gave all of us great joy with her laugh, her look, and her heart - upon which we will forever draw.

-Brad Purcell

brad purcell - June 24, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ Ardana was one of the most intelligent people that I have had the honor to work with. We worked together when I was just starting out at H&R Block, and, I found her to be most helpful and knowledgeable. I assisted her with an IRS audit, my very first. And, she was very supportive when I decided to pursue my Enrolled Agent certification. God Bless you, her family and friends.
You are in my prayers,
Diann West

Diann West - June 13, 2018 at 10:26 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Janine. We shared many good times when working together at CEC. She was always a positive person and had a smile on her face. She will be missed by all that knew her. Sending Love and Prayers. Kathy Mosher

Kathy Mosher - June 01, 2018 at 05:11 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your sons Wendell. I still just can't believe it. I never in a million years would've thought that when I told her to have a good evening on 4/19/18 that it would be the last time I would see her. Ardana was a class act. I know I am speaking for all of us at H & R Block in the GT Mall, our tax family will not be the same without Ardana. God grant us all peace and I hope Ardana will be guiding us from above. I will miss her smile, her knowledge and her kind heart. RIP my friend.

Sadly,
Angela Ward

Angela Ward - May 29, 2018 at 02:15 AM



“ Wendell and Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I was shocked to hear the news of Ardana's passing this morning from Jane. A hole now exists in the gang as well as all our hearts, Good memories will fill but never replace the incredible Wife, Mother, and Friend we have lost.

With Love,

Nancy Houghton and Family



NANCY J E HOUGHTON DO - May 27, 2018 at 01:35 PM