



Arlene Marie Grockau

June 25, 1953 - September 8, 2014

Arlene M Grockau

TRAVERSE CITY - Arlene Marie Grockau, 61, of Traverse City, passed away unexpectedly at the Rapid City Regional Health Care Center in Rapid City, SD.

Arlene was born on Thursday, June 25, 1953 to Curt H. and Marjorie Ann (Malleis) Matzke. Arlene was a Detroit girl through and through, never wavering in her love for anything associated with the city, including the Tigers, Mo-Town music and the likes. Following her graduation from high school, she continued her education, earning a Bachelors Degree in business from Ferris State University. On Friday March 20, 1981, in Dearborn, she married Kurt H. Grockau.

Arlene was a Human Resources Specialist for Grand Traverse County and was a member of the Traverse Area Human Resource Association. She loved everything athletic. An avid softball player, she played in high school; was an all star pitcher and played on many intramural teams as she progressed through college. She played softball up until a few years ago on local teams. Arlene was very family oriented and enjoyed every moment she could spend with her children and grandchildren. Kris and Rachele's friends also considered her Mom. She always made time to be at her children's events as well as her grandson Kane's t-ball games. She was very resourceful, always thought of others first and was the first to give you the shirt off her back. She had the gift of encouraging others - she was the rock... and the referee. She cherished her friendships, especially with her "girl friends" and loved their weekend get-togethers.

Arlene is survived by her husband Kurt, her children, Kristopher (Nikki Ankney) of Traverse City and Rachele (Shaun Hubbell) Grockau of Traverse City; her two grandsons, Kane and Shay and one grandson to arrive in December; her mother and stepfather, Marjorie A. and Robert McKeown of Detroit, her siblings, David Matzke of Westland and Roger Matzke of Strongsville, OH. She has several nieces and nephews who survive and were dear to her heart. Arlene was preceded in death by her father Curt Matzke and her

father and mother in law Harold and Margaret Grockau.

Visitation for Arlene will begin at 12 noon Sunday, Sept. 14 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home followed by her service at 2 p.m. Pastor Justin Grimm will officiate. Burial will be in Coldsprings Twp Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family for a fund for the grandchildren.

Please share your memories, thoughts and photos with the family by way of her on-line guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

Cemetery

**Coldsprings Township
Cemetery**

Kalkaska, MI,

Events

SEP 14 Visitation for friends and family 12:00PM - 02:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP 14 Celebration of Life 02:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I was so shocked to hear of Arlene's passing. She was so full of life! I enjoyed the years I worked with her in Human Resources at GT County... she taught me a lot, put up with me, and was there for me in so many ways during some very difficult life changes. She will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Kurt, and your whole family. God Bless.

Laura Czaja (Robinson)

Laura Czaja Robinson - September 15, 2014 at 03:32 PM



“ Dear Kurt, Rachelle and Kris,

Please know that our heart and prayers are with you.

As I reflect on the memories I have with Arlene from living with Grandma Lentz on Dolphin Street in Detroit, family gatherings at Aunt Marge's and most recently the love and support she shared with me during my mothers recent passing.

Demonstrates just how important family was to her.

Wish there is something more I could say to help ease the pain, but I truly believe there is a plan for each and everyone of us.

I will embrace her life and the fond memories that she has given me.

All my Love

Jim Payne (Rosanne's Son)

Jim Payne - September 14, 2014 at 09:52 AM



“ Dear Kurt, Rachelle and Kris,
I grew up 4 houses down from Arlene, we played albums, games, slept in her tree house, birthday parties, I spent many Sat nites there and went to church with the family on Sun. We went to drive ins together, shared alot of laughter and fun. Aunt Marge was my mom's best friend. I got a job at IBM 1973 and told Arlene to apply there, she got it right away. We both got married and moved away but kept in contact later through fb. I will always remember her as a Beautiful person, never a mean thing to say about anyone. I enjoyed seeing her posts on fb, I could tell she was a Wonderful Mother, Wife, and grandmother, she seemed so Proud. I just want to say how Proud I am to have had the opportunity to live my younger years sharing with her the things teens go through. My heart breaks for all of you and Aunt Marge, Dave and Roger.

With sympathy,
Lorie (Bowman) Verbridge now.

Lorie Verbridge - September 14, 2014 at 12:22 AM



“ Arlene will live on
In the hearts that knew her well
Love can never die

With sympathy and in gratitude for having known her,
Sue Kelly

Sue Kelly - September 13, 2014 at 08:02 PM



“ Patty Wright lit a candle in memory of Arlene Marie Grockau



patty wright - September 13, 2014 at 07:41 PM



“ Uncle Kurt- I am so very heartbroken for you and your kids. My prayers are with you.
-Evamarie

evamarie - September 13, 2014 at 05:38 PM



“ Arlene, I will miss seeing you at our family functions. You always brought a bright spot to any gathering. Lots of love to Kurt, Rachelle and Kris. You have had a great role model to follow after.
Cousin Jack and Sheryl.



Jack Lentz - September 13, 2014 at 02:45 PM



“ Kurt, Rachelle and Kris - Your wife, mother and friend to me was a warm, caring, loving woman. I am so happy we got to know each other. She always had a smile and kind words for everyone. She was very proud of her family. You will miss her but know that your memories will keep her alive in your hearts and actions forever.
Carole Kornmiller

Carole Kornmiller - September 13, 2014 at 11:28 AM



“ Dear Grockau Family,

Words cannot express the loss I feel for your family.

Arlene was the living example of everything a Mother should be to her children...She loved you so much!!!

I love this quote, and I hope you find comfort in it, as I have...

"As long as we can love each other, and remember the feeling of love we had, we can die without ever really going away. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on---in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here..."

Arlene, you will always be with us, your memory is in all of our hearts!

Hugs!

Jan Plantrich (Fardell)

jan plantrich - September 13, 2014 at 09:21 AM



“ Thank you everyone for the kind words - my mom truly was the most inspiring person... Thank you, Rachelle

Rachelle - September 13, 2014 at 08:40 AM



“ Rachelle and Grockau family,

So shocked and sorry to hear the news about your Mom. I will always have fond memories of your Mom from our time as Holiday Hills' neighbors. She had a wonderful smile and infectious laugh. Thinking of you all today and sending hugs, love and prayers.

Megan Brown

megan brown - September 12, 2014 at 05:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Kelly - September 12, 2014 at 04:53 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Arlene at IBM in Southfield. She always shared stories of her family. We had many fun times working together in the same office. This is such sad news. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Fran Goran - September 12, 2014 at 03:40 PM



“ Grockau Family...Blessings from above will give you strength. The memories will carry you through each passing day. The love you share will give you peace. The loss of a loved one is never easy to bear in your heart. Her time here was special and cherished by all who knew her. She left a part of herself to be shared with the next generation and those to come. Her laughter will always be there and the smile to follow. Take with you the wisdom she shared and grow. God needs her now for another special purpose. Our prayers and love to all. You are FAMILY and we will miss her dearly.

Love, Leon, April and Garrett VanEen SCS,MI

Leon, April and Garrett VanEeden - September 12, 2014 at 10:42 AM



“ Dear Grockau family~Our hearts are broken I miss her terribly. Arlene was so incredibly in tune with everyone she came in contact with. She knew just the right thing to say to help lift a person up or to give another point of view or to put someone at ease. She was my mentor that I looked to when I needed help. She was there to comfort my grief when I lost family. She was the fun gal that liked to get out with the girls after work. I am attaching the last outing we had. She loved to laugh and it was hilarious to get on a laughing spree with her. This office is not the same and will never be the same for me.

I will continue prayers for your strength and hope you know how much I care for you all. I know life without her is difficult for you all. I hope you can be reminded of those things she would have you do, to guide you through the remainder of your lives. That is the greatest tribute you can give. Joanne Tuck



Joanne Tuck - September 12, 2014 at 09:46 AM



“ When I think of Arlene, I think of smiling warmth. She made everyone around her feel at ease and I will always cherish knowing her. May God comfort her family as He welcomes her into His kingdom.

Mary Anne Lyberg



Mary Anne Lyberg - September 12, 2014 at 09:32 AM



“ I will always remember Arlene's warm smile when I applied for a job at GTC. I was so nervous and she put me at ease. I got the job and later when our paths would cross, I would ask about her children, the light in her eyes went on - you could see how proud she was of them and her grandchildren. So sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful person. Cindy Edmonson



Cindy Edmonson - September 12, 2014 at 06:34 AM



“ 1 file added to the album BFFs



Cindy Riker - September 11, 2014 at 08:24 PM



“ Arlene was a gem in every way. Our friendship spanned thirty wonderful years. While memories will last forever, I will miss our adventures and sharing those things most near and dear to our hearts. I look forward to meeting again someday to laugh and hug once more.

Debbie Nemesi - September 11, 2014 at 07:44 PM



“ There are no words that can express exactly how one feels when a loved one is here one day and gone the next. It's a burning in your chest. A hole in your heart. A tear in your eye. Sadness. An ache. We will stay strong, because that is what she would want us to do. She would want us to support one another today, tomorrow and the days to come. Try to remember the good times. Let them bring a smile to your face. She is in our hearts forever. Love you, Arlene.



Cindy Riker - September 11, 2014 at 04:45 PM



“ Dearest Kurt and Family, I can't express the shock I got with the phone call from Keith when he returned to Loveland from Deadwood. Mike and I are so very sorry for your loss. We did not spend a ton of time together but the time we did have showed me a very wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. I wish I was there to hug you but please know we are there in spirit.
Jeanne and Mike McDermott

J.M. McDermot - September 11, 2014 at 01:03 PM



“ Arlene was one the 'real' people that you are fortunate enough to meet and work with during this short life we have.

As a IBM colleague and friend she was always fun to be around and she managed to put a positive spin the many everyday speed bumps.

My condolences to the family.....I know she will be missed.

Steve Vanderford

Steve Vanderford - September 11, 2014 at 12:12 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Arlene back to when she worked for IBM. It is amazing how she grew in her position with the County. We worked together on interviews, payroll, and many HR related items. Her shoes will not be easy to fill. She had so much experience and practical knowledge of the County. I will miss her and our talks about family, friends, and vacations.

Don Sheehan, County IT

Don Sheehan - September 11, 2014 at 10:10 AM



“ Grockau Family,

I am so sorry to hear about Arlene's passing. When I think back on my childhood I remember her being so FUNNY, one of my favorite "Mom's." I loved her personality, her sense of humor, and her attitude. She was so awesome to be around. You will be missed Arlene.

Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers in the upcoming days and weeks.

Wishing you comfort and peace.

Lyndsay Batsakis (Johnson)

Lyndsay Batsakis - September 11, 2014 at 10:09 AM