



Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee

July 8, 1933 - January 24, 2022

TRAVERSE CITY — Bernadette Lucy “Bernie” “Toots” Rooney McGee, 88, was received into the arms of God on Monday, January 24, 2022. Bernie was born July 8, 1933 in Grand Rapids, MI and received a Bachelors in Nursing from Mercy College of Detroit. Bernie and her husband William (“Bill”) met while serving their community as nurses. They married on April 7, 1956 at Holy Rosary Church in Flint. This began 54 years of a faith-filled marriage until Bill’s death in 2010. Bernie and Bill exemplified their marriage vows spoken so many years ago; for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health. All who knew them have benefitted from witnessing their testament of faith and love. They both lived beautiful, impactful lives. Bill and Bernie moved to Traverse city in 1956 where they became members of the Immaculate Conception (IC) parish. Throughout her more than 60 years as a parishioner, Bernie remained active, faithful, and committed to the IC church. It was commonplace for Bernie and Bill to welcome parish priests and nuns into their home, further strengthening their faith. Lenten season was met with a weekly rosary with all nine children kneeling and praying with them. Bernie was involved in prayer chains, pancake breakfasts, and assisted Bill with his leadership positions within the IC community. The doors were always open and people were always welcomed at the McGee homestead where spiritual awakenings often took place. Cursillos and De Colores enveloped the home while guitars, prayers, and song filled the house with love.

Bernie has always been the pillar of strength for her family. She was the matriarch of the Malewitz, Rooney, and McGee clans. Bernie had a twin brother, Bernard. They took different paths in life with mom, "Toots," marrying and raising nine children, and Bernard, "Turk," following his calling into the priesthood. He always reminded Toots that she was the elder of the two.

Bernie was a mother to more than just her nine biological children. Over the years, the McGees welcomed unwed mothers, troubled teens, young adults, and VISTA volunteers from Peshawbestown reservation into their home. Her children's friends always knew "Mom and Dad's" home was a safe haven as they were "one of the kids." There was always a place at the

table and a warm place to sleep. On Nov 1, 1971, Bill's life took a drastic turn when he survived

a near-fatal car accident. Bernie became a homemaker, mother, and Bill's nurse and caregiver

during the day, and the breadwinner and full-time nurse at night. Bill's constant pain and suffering did not deter her. She never complained and when she was told she was a "saint" for

caring for Bill, she responded saying "He is my husband and I love him. I wouldn't have it any

other way." Bernie retired six times from various jobs in the medical profession. Those who knew her loved her and will continue to live in her example. Her legacy will live on.

Bernie's loves in life were many, including sports, cribbage, puzzles, cooking, and her faith.

Bernie and Bill were very socially active and participated in the Traverse City Hunt Club and in

city bowling leagues. She was a part of a bridge group that met weekly for over 40 years (Barb

Shrift, Grace Glynn, Ronnie Green, Lorna Ameel, and Mary Ann Drury). She loved her "Beaumont Girls" from her nursing days. She was the "bookie" for the family and friends' football

pool where she would call participants weekly to select their picks for NFL games.

Bernie was preceded in death by the love of her life William "Bill" McGee, parents George and

Helen (Malewitz) Rooney, her twin brother Rev. Bernard "Turk" Rooney C.Ss.R., her great-grandson Zachary Moll, sisters in law Denise (Maurice) O'Halloran, Sr. Borgia Ann

McGee S.S.J., and brothers in law John (Marian) McGee and Pat (Rose) McGee. She is survived by her nine children: Kathleen (Bill Stallman) McGee-Stallman, Patricia (Michael) Martin, Daniel (Janet) McGee, Mary (Francis Cullen) McGee-Cullen, Thomas (Alessandra) McGee, and John (Neva) McGee of Traverse City, Kevin (Ann) McGee of Nashville, and Kieran (Kevin Shafer) McGee and William (Staci) McGee of Rockford. Bill and

Bernie were blessed with 20 grandchildren, Gina (Scott), Alana, Erin, Will, Monica, Audrey,

Marley (Justin), Shealyn (Justin), Ryan (Brianna), Kennedy (Kevin), Helen, Connor, Evan, Delaney, Matheus, Justine (John), Sydney, Sean, Keegan, and Kati, and five great-grandchildren, Nick, Sam, Hayden, Wynn, and Nolan. She had numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home today, January 27 from 4 to 8 p.m.

with a rosary service (webcasted at rjfhtv.com) at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior on Friday, January 29, at Immaculate Conception Church. The mass will also be live streamed at www.immaculatetc.org for those unable to attend. Burial will take place at Oakwood Catholic Cemetery. Please remember Bernie through memorial gifts to Father Fred Food Pantry or Hospice of Michigan in memory of Bernie McGee.

The family would like to offer our deepest gratitude to the numerous doctors and staff who have

cared for Mom over many years. Our many thanks go out to Deacon Rene Hoenschied, the

Hospice of Michigan staff, Boardman Lake Glens staff, and Kate for their gentle care of Mom in

her final days. Kindly share thoughts and memories about Mom online at

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

and Cremation Services.

Mom was a living example of faith, hope, and love. Mom, Grandma, Nana, loving wife, mother,

and caregiver of many, we thank you for your selflessness, kindness, acceptance of others, and

warm and forgiving spirit. We love you always.

Previous Events

Wake

JAN 26. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sorellina
250 East Front Street no. 110
Traverse City, MI 49684

Visitation

JAN 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St
Traverse City, MI 49684
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Rosary

JAN 27. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St
Traverse City, MI 49684
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com
<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
308 Cedar Street
Traverse City, MI 49684
<https://immaculatetc.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 27 at 09:22 AM



“ Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 26 at 04:00 PM

KW

A life well lived in an Irish Way 🍀
The road has risen to meet you....I remember you well....Joanne Kuffel Rooney's maid of honor & cousin....my mother 🍀 Uncle Jimmy is hosting the party 🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀🍀

Kathleen Kuffel Whitcroft - January 27 at 11:12 AM

KW

God bless your beautiful family 🍀

Kathleen Kuffel Whitcroft - January 27 at 11:13 AM

PM

Paul and I were out of town this past week and returned to discover, with a tremendous sadness, that we will not receive the warm hug and smile from Bernie we are so accustomed to upon seeing her. We send our hugs to all her family and join in their celebration of a life led to it's fullest in every way.
God Bless,
Paul and Sue Maxbauer

Paul and Sue Maxbauer - January 28 at 05:35 PM



“ Send *BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally* to the family of Bernadette McGee. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - January 25 at 01:24 PM

MD

“ I am so sorry to hear this news- my mother was Phyllis Malewitz Rosenbach- and we would often visit with Toots when she came to Grand Rapids to see my mom. My son has recently moved to TRaverse City- and we were hoping to reconnect with her- sending you all our good thoughts and memories of Toots!

Margaret Rosenbach Dillon

Margaret Rosenbach Dillon - March 19 at 12:04 PM

HH

“ Heather Halvorsen lit a candle in memory of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee



Heather Halvorsen - January 31 at 12:23 PM

DM

“ Darlene Miller lit a candle in memory of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee



Darlene Miller - January 31 at 11:25 AM

LL

“ Bernie was always a wonderful fun gal who shared much laughter, awesome dishes for our potlucks, your delish cranberry relish annually and your inviting friendship always to all of us Beaumont Babes!!! Thanks for accepting all of our shenanigans!!! We ALL LUV YOU!!!! Love, Loretta XOXOXO

Loretta Ludka - January 27 at 03:18 PM



Brian Thomas

“ Dear Patty. I never met your mom. I do however remember your special spirit , light and joy many moons ago. She must have been pretty awesome to raise such a happy soul as you.

My condolences to your family during this time. Your long ago friend, Bri

Brian Thomas - January 27 at 02:00 PM

TT

“ *McGee family,*

I am embarrassed to admit that I never met your mom. When I read the obituary with heavy heart, I reflected on her great family that I had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with over the years. It occurred to me that, I indeed, had met your mom through each of the McGee clan with whom I had the pleasure of knowing. What a wonderful family and legacy. My deepest sympathy ❤️👍

Tony Thorpe - January 27 at 12:28 PM

TH

“ *McGee family, we have been so fortunate to get to know your Mom over the last 9 years living across the street from Patty. We shared many events with her in the Martin backyard; her smile and laughter will never be forgotten.*

Love and prayers for all of you as you grieve her loss. May your memories comfort you through this difficult time.

Tammi and David Hollis

tammi hollis - January 27 at 10:19 AM

NH

“ *Dearest McGee family,*

When we were all little ones, your family and mine were intertwined. My mum, Nadji Shugart Houghton, was friends with your mum since the two of them were in third grade together. Whenever we were in Traverse City, an afternoon with the McGee's was always on the agenda. Then when I lived in Traverse City I would often run into Kathy and we would have a good chat. I ran into your mum often, usually in a grocery store check-out line. And I have a photo that your dad took of a group I was with at a St. Francis Gladhander one year. It was very hard on my mother to hear of Bernie's passing. She is suffering from dementia, but was full of memories of their escapades as little girls. Your mother will be missed, just as your father has been missed. And the Houghton Family reminiscences of times with the McGees will continue. May the good Lord bless you and keep you during this difficult time.

Nina Houghton

Nina Houghton - January 27 at 09:04 AM

JR

“ We would like to send our prayers and condolences to the McGee family! Having had most of the nine in Math class at St. Francis, I know that she and Bill supported their education and valued their school. You all have a rich family history to carry on!!

Jim and Adrienne Rossi and family

Jim Rossi - January 27 at 09:02 AM

PC

I have many fond memories of your Mom when she would bring unwed girls to ON @ Munson when I worked as a nurse their. She was very supportive of them. Kathy Due to previous obligations I cannot attend the service but will continue to pray for her family will. You are so much like her I have enjoyed getting to know you @ Superior PT

Pat Clingan - January 27 at 11:21 AM



“ Rick and Martha Videan Family purchased In Our Hearts Lavender for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee.



Send Flowers - January 27 at 08:24 AM

MB

“ I worked in the Beaumont Building and soon realized Bernie lived just down the street from Munson. I found out she had a big family, a big house and a very big heart. She went to many funerals over her life time...so I know she will have a big funeral, huge ! I wish I could be there to cry and share stories. She was a pretty lady too. I admire her steadfast life of gratitude and enthusiasm. What a gal !

*With love.respect & sympathy,
Marilyn Overholt Blum*

Marilyn Blum - January 27 at 07:20 AM



“ *The Ott Family and Margaret Scannell purchased Simply Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 05:29 PM

CM

“ *"May thoughts of all your mother meant, of love she gave, of good times spent - bring you peace and comfort, too, and keep your mother close to you." To all our Traverse City cousins, with deepest sympathy. From Charley and Jean Malewitz*

Charles Malewitz - January 26 at 04:41 PM



“ *Paul Dunbar and Katie Phelps purchased Peace and Comfort (with 8" Tall) Glass Cross for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 04:34 PM



“ *Meindersma Family purchased Thoughts and Prayers for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Toots" Lucy McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 02:52 PM

ME

“ *Bernie was a good friend of mine as well as my mother's. I loved knocking once and entering her home through the back yard like I was one of her kids. She was always so welcoming. Bernie gave a beautiful rosary blessed by the pope to my mother who carried it to her grave. What a special friendship! Another highlight was our ride in the St. Paddy's day parade! I am going to miss that awesome woman! Rest in peace dear Bernie. Bill, Dick and Ginny have pink roses waiting for you in heaven.*

margaret varley edgington - January 26 at 12:53 PM



“ *Barbara purchased Memory Cross with LED Candle for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 12:10 PM



“ *Connolly family purchased In Our Hearts Lavender for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 11:29 AM



“ *The Bowers Harbor Vineyard Family purchased White Reflections for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 10:24 AM



“ *The Phelps Family purchased Basket of Love for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 08:40 AM



“ *Richard Reilly purchased Joyous Garden for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 26 at 08:35 AM

EM

“ *Bernie, what a gal, mom, wife, granny and all around good neighbor..she will be missed. Sending smooches to all the McGees.Comfort in knowing your folks are together again.. cheers to great memories, hugs all around
Egan McGlynn*

egan mcGlynn - January 26 at 08:16 AM

BC

“ *We, The Chartiers lived next door to them for over 50 yrs. Very kind and courteous of others and my Parents always followed each other to and from Church on Sunday and Holidays.. Bernie and Bills kids are all great successful adults whom she loved to talk about over the fence every time I visited Traverse City. She will be missed and thought of with kindness and respect.*

Brian F Chartier

Brian F Chartier - January 25 at 09:51 PM

AH

“ My prayers are with the family. Mrs. Mcgee was such a wonderful mother and a God fearing woman. I was blessed to spend a couple of weekend at their home when I attended SFHS during my senior year when I lived with the Panks. Heaven has gained an angel who already got her work cut out for her. She is going right back to keeping Bill in line. I will miss her. My condolences to the Mcgee family. Kathy, be blessed also.



Alvin Mocco Harris

Alvin M. Harris - January 25 at 08:35 PM

MJ

“ We lived next door to the Mcgee's growing up. We were the the Jones family. There were kids running from one house to another...Mrs. McGee was a 2nd mother. I will always think of her that way. I know my mother thought the world of her. Martha Jones.

Martha Jones - January 25 at 07:33 PM

MB

“ This lady was one of the first people I met when I moved to Traverse City over forty years ago. Bernie, her loving husband, and the incredible children she brought into the world, made that transition that much easier. She had a way of making time for everyone and letting each one feel as if they were the most important. Bernie, you will be missed but I believe I'm a better person for having known you. Rest In Peace sweet one!

Maureen Bauer - January 25 at 05:41 PM

BI

Bernie, my forever friend. You and I have shared so many lovely times together, at your kitchen table, just sharing life. Our trip to Rome was your one bucket list item and we did it in style my friend. I treasured every talk we had over the last few years and we both know, you will be there for me when the time comes. Just be there to greet me you beautiful soul. You have truly been a friend. Always Barbara

Barbara Inman - January 26 at 08:26 AM

SW

I am so blessed to have been part of your family and to have known your Mom. Bernie is a beautiful lady and thank you for sharing her with me. May you cherish all of your wonderful memories.

Sharon Cecchi Woolhiser

Sharon Woolhiser - January 26 at 11:39 AM

GS

What a legacy. To leave behind so many that loved and honored this treasure. She lives on by a wonderful family who learned the power of character and love. Lean on one another and relish memories while you make your own with the next generation. Mrs. McGee was our ob/gyn nurse for our kids, a neighbor (we shared an alley and a basketball hoop), and mother to a couple of my favorite people.

Glenn Solowiej - January 27 at 06:09 AM



“ *The Hogan Family -- Nancy, Marty and Jennifer purchased Thoughts and Prayers for the family of Bernadette McGee.*



Send Flowers - January 25 at 01:23 PM