



Charlotte "Char" Louise Owen

May 3, 1941 - January 8, 2021

Charlotte "Char" Louise Owen, 79 of Traverse City passed away peacefully on January 8, 2021 at Munson Hospice House.

Char was born on May 3, 1941 in Three Rivers, MI to the late Robert and Dorothy (Tallman) Millard. She grew up in the town of Mendon, MI and later attended Albion College.

In 1976, Char relocated from Sturgis, MI to Traverse City with her 3-year-old son Tom. She was determined and courageous in establishing a new career in banking, building a house where Tom would grow up and settling into the community.

Char retired from Traverse City State Bank, having worked through multiple mergers in the banking industry and many changes in her responsibilities as her career developed. One of the roles she enjoyed the most was that of Teller Instructor. She was selected to develop the first full-time training program for tellers because of her knowledge, deep attention to detail and a professional demeanor that created a memorable customer experience time and again. Char made lifelong friendships over her years in banking and many former colleagues in this community still comment on how significantly she influenced their careers.

Her life centered around Tom and she immersed herself in the things that interested him the most. From attending every soccer game to watching football, Char was able to have lengthy conversations about any sport! Some of their best memories include spending weekends and summers with family at the homestead in Mendon, playing in the backyard pool, eating fresh raspberries from the garden and spending endless hours laughing together.

Early in life, Char acquired her mother's talent for sewing and became a versatile and masterful seamstress. Later in life she turned her talent to making quilts. She had a flair for big, bold colors and patterns that stunned the eye and brought life and energy to any

place her quilts were displayed. Every year she spent two weeks on Beaver Island with her sister and their childhood best friends - creating, quilting and soaking in the nature and camaraderie. In the last two years, Char brought her love of cats and quilts together, making and donating cat quilts to the Cherryland Humane Society.

While Tom was always the apple of Char's eye, he had to share the stage when his daughter Ireland was born six years ago. Char and Ireland had a very special bond and every other Friday, Ireland would look forward to spending the day playing and reading with "Mema Char".

During retirement, Char practiced Tai Chi where she enjoyed the energy and motivation it gave her. She became friends with a small group of devoted members.

Colleagues, friends and acquaintances would comment on Char's unforgettable smile and sunny disposition. Fondly, Char will be remembered as an amazing quilter, cat lover, loving sister, devoted friend, awesome mother and an even better grandmother.

Surviving Char is her son Tom (Shannon), granddaughter Ireland, siblings Laureen (Jim) Searing of Saugatuck, Rodney (Eve) Millard of Sturgis and many other family members and friends.

Char is preceded in death by her parents.

Private family service will take place on Wednesday, January 13th at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens will serve as her final resting place. Due to COVID-19 a Celebration of Char's life will take place in the spring. Memorial Contributions in her honor may be directed to the Cherryland Humane Society. Kindly share thoughts and memories with Char's family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mary Lietz - February 05 at 02:59 PM



“ Each year while visiting our cabin in Bellaire, Mary would arrange to meet with "Auntie Char" for a meal and conversation. Friendship started while working at Traverse City State Bank years ago. Her husband Jeff, used to play soccer in their basement with Tom while he was knee high to a grasshopper. Many memories, great love, she will be missed greatly!

Jeff - February 05 at 03:03 PM



“ Hi Tom and family,
Char was a great neighbor to me all the years I lived next door on Bald Eagle. I always felt that she was somehow looking out for me....and I would check in on her if her curtains were closed too long or mail/papers still in her box. She had a heart of gold. We often had chats in the spring and summer months at the fence. She always spoke of you, Tom, in addition to her cats and trips and times on the island. You took such great care of her, and she loved you dearly. I regret not visiting her before she died, but I chatted with her: she was in her new home, Heaven. I want to come to her celebration of life; I hope I will somehow know about it. Sincerely, Julie Stephenson(woodcreek/buttermilk loop).

Julie Stephenson - January 27 at 01:49 PM



“ My prayers and condolences to Char's family. I have very fond memories of working with her at the bank. She trained me to be a Bank Teller and I was lucky enough to have one of her beautiful quilts that was presented to me by Char and all my co workers at my wedding shower. I think of her often and I am glad that I got to see her and chat about old times a few years ago at our yearly alumni reunion lunch. Char was a great person and will be missed by many.

Susan Baase Edmonds - January 25 at 10:18 AM



“ In the short 12 years I had with Char, these two moments show the sincere happiness she felt through her beautiful smile.



Shannon Owen - January 13 at 07:27 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Rod Millard - January 13 at 05:21 PM



“ Always a fun time together. We will cherish the beautiful memories with Char We will miss her

Eve Millard - January 14 at 07:48 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss Tom. I always enjoyed talking to her each week when you came with her for your piano lesson. She was a remarkable person.

Tad Minor - January 17 at 12:08 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lisa Escobar - January 13 at 03:51 PM



“ From the few times I met Charlotte, she was a beautiful woman, inside and out. Tom, Shannon and Ireland we are so sorry for your loss!!!!
-Bill, Linda and the girls

Linda - January 12 at 07:26 PM



“ Tom, Shannon and Ireland
I can't tell you how sorry I am for your loss! I have known your mom, Tom, since 1981, and loved her very much! She had the kind of strength in her heart to inspire me to do the most rewarding thing I ever did - adopt 2 boys! I worked with Char at the bank for 5 years and moved to Wisconsin but stayed in contact with her and visited every Summer. I have one of her beautiful quilts! I have fond memories of babysitting Tom as a young man and my husband playing soccer with a paper ball in the basement and he did teach Tom how to shift gears on our old VW! We loved Char! A life can be measured not by how much the person loved but how much they were loved by others! Char was LOVED! please email me at X-RayMary@outlook.com

Mary Lietz - February 05 at 03:03 PM



“ I am shocked to see that Charlotte passed away. I hadn't seen her into Olesons where I worked in a few weeks. Thought she was staying away due to covid. Gonna miss seeing her. We would stand and talk in the aisles where I was working and talk about life, cats, kids, her precious granddaughter Ireland. My thoughts are with the family during this sad time.

heather - January 12 at 06:16 PM



“ Charlotte was a great supportive friend that loved her son and his precious family. A beautiful quilter she shared her talent with us her quilting group. I have many wonder memories of our evenings and meals we shared. I loved he stories about her adventures with her sister and cousins and stories about her dad and the bank of Millard. Lunch hours at the bank were another memory and visiting her newly purchased house. Sandi Pyle

sandra pyle - January 19 at 09:53 AM



“ Tom, I was saddened to here about the passing of your mom. I never had the chance to meet her, but know that she had to be a special person to raise such a wonderful son. Miss you, and the days at PC. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Shannon, and Ireland.
Paula Wasek

Paula Wasek - January 25 at 04:32 PM