



Evelyn Ann Petersen

July 2, 1936 - October 18, 2012

Traverse City – Evelyn Ann Petersen, 76 of Traverse City passed away October 18, 2012 at her home after an eight-month battle with cancer.

Evelyn was born on July 2, 1936 in Gary, Indiana to the late Eric Maxwell and Julia Ann (Kustron) Ivany.

Evelyn was a graduate of Lew Wallace High School in Gary, IN, and pursued her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Child and Family Life from Hanover College and Purdue University; she later fulfilled her Masters Degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education at Central Michigan University.

On June 13, 1964 she married Jon E. Petersen. They shared 45 years together before he passed away in 2009.

Evelyn was an award-winning author, parenting columnist, early childhood educator, and longtime contributor to the Record Eagle. She co-founded the Traverse City Co-op Nursery School and was their first teacher. At the time of her death she had just completed teaching an on-line course in Early Childhood Education for Bay Mills Community College, which she had continued teaching during her cancer treatments.

Evelyn was interested in different societies and cultures, and was able to pursue this interest during her work with the Head Start program among 16 Tribal Nations in the US. She and her late husband Jon also hosted several foreign exchange students through the Rotary Club exchange program. Evelyn enjoyed traveling both in the US and abroad; some of her most recent trips included a visit to former exchange students Anja Forsberg and Eeva Kärki in Finland, and a Caribbean cruise with her sister, Kathi Ivany-Mort. Other interests she enjoyed were music and the arts, and she participated in many volunteer activities at Interlochen Center for the Arts, where her late husband had been a faculty member. Evelyn liked to entertain family and friends at their Long Lake home, which they shared with her two (utterly spoiled) cats, Tiger and Buddy. She also enjoyed snorkeling, Ai chi, and tending her beautiful gardens.

Evelyn is survived by her daughters Heather (Bill) Hewett of Kewadin, Karin Petersen of Traverse City, Kristin Petersen of Myrtle Beach, SC, and son Eric Hebert of Gainesville, FL; grandchildren Jason Seixas, Amanda Hebert, and Melissa Hebert; great-grandchildren

Hunter and Natalie Seixas; sister Helen Kathleen (Jef) Ivany-Mort; nieces Erica (John) Biek and Erin (Matthew) Larson-Rockwell; and great-uncle Llewellyn Ivany, great-aunt Doris (Ivany) Timmons and numerous cousins of Nova Scotia, Canada.

A celebration of Evelyn's life will take place on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions in memory of Evelyn may be directed to the Women's Resource Center and Traverse City Cooperative Preschool. Envelopes will be provided at the funeral home.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your thoughts and memories with the family.

The family is being served by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

NOV **Memorial Service** 04:00PM

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

Comments



“ MaryEllen Fritz lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Ann Petersen



MaryEllen Fritz - January 10, 2013 at 12:30 PM



“ I wanted Evelyn's family to know that she is loved and adored in Alaska- she came up here years ago to help our Teachers and I still use her knowledge to help new Teachers. We had joyous times and I am very blessed to have spent time with this amazing, beautiful woman. God bless you all. MaryEllen in Alaska

MaryEllen Fritz - January 10, 2013 at 12:33 PM



“ I remember using Evelyn's Cooperative nursery center for a summer session of Headstart more than 30 years ago. It was located close to where Pier 1 is now, but there was no mall, just buffalo roaming in nearby fields! Evelyn was a dedicated advocate for families and early childhood education, and will be missed. My condolences to her family.

JoAnne Beare
Empire, MI.



JoAnne Beare - October 24, 2012 at 05:42 PM



“ Harriet Ann Grueber lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Ann Petersen



Harriet Ann Grueber - October 24, 2012 at 08:59 AM