



## Fransetta Cemery Merenda

April 24, 1946 - April 20, 2017

Elk Rapids – Cemery Merenda, 70, of Elk Rapids entered into eternal life on April 20, 2017.

Cemery was born on April 24, 1946 in Detroit to the late Robert and Patricia (McKnight) Papineau. She spent her child hood on Sylvan Lake in West Bloomfield with her grandparents Basil and Edith McKnight.

Cemery graduated from West Bloomfield Hills High School. She went on to study at the University of Michigan. She met the love of her life in the summer of 1965, James “Jim” Merenda. Cemery and Jim married on September 3, 1966 in Farmington. Cemery was the devoted mother of Claudia Edna Merenda and Daniel Mac James Merenda. Claudia was born with physical disabilities and Cemery fought to give her the best life possible.

Cemery was a gifted writer and painter. She made a special collection of art that included braille for individuals who were blind. Cemery also loved listening to music; Elvis was one of her favorites. She enjoyed watching the wild life outside of her home on Elk Lake. She and Jim wintered in Southern Utah and Alabama so that they could be close to Daniel. Above all else, Cemery cherished time with her family, especially her grandsons Ethan and Gavin. She looked forward to the birth of her third grandchild whom is due this spring.

Cemery is survived by her husband of 50 years Jim, daughter Claudia of Traverse City and son Daniel (Amber) Merenda of Madison, AL and grandsons Ethan and Gavin.

Cemerys faith was very important to her. Now in the hands of her Heavenly Father, the family will celebrate her life privately.

Memorial contributions in memory of Cemery may be directed to Munson Hospice House.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

# Comments

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“ I am sorry I did not know of this when it happened. I've only just now learned of this, as I tried to find out what happened with my good friend Pat, so just stumbled upon this news.

I am sure you found this passing difficult, so perhaps you may also understand how difficult it was for me, to be completely shut out of anything to do with my friend's passing. I was not a part of the tumultuous relationship between Pat and her daughter, but we were shut out at her ending, like we were scum, when Pat passed. We never once were informed of any service or any other recognition of Pat's passing. To this day, I regret that.

I know what she thought of her daughter and son-in-law, and those thoughts were not kind. How sad.

May you treat all others in your family with honesty, love, acceptance.

Lauren Keinath - October 24, 2019 at 12:38 AM

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“ Jim and Family ... my heart goes out to you at your loss of a wonderful wife and mother and "our" loss of a lovely person. I have fond memories of Cemery stopping for a quick "Bank chat" that was always interesting & enlightening.

Cemery will be missed by all who knew her and my prayers and thoughts will be with you and your family.

Love,  
Jeanne Carboneau

jeanne Carboneau - May 06, 2017 at 12:56 PM

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“ I am so very sorry to hear of Cemery's passing, Jim. While I did not know Cemery well, I know she was very well loved by you and your children and it is so difficult to say goodbye to the ones we love. I pray peace and comfort to you and your family. May you find release in the memories you shared with your beautiful wife.

Blessings to you and yours. Sherry Schmalenberg

Sherry L. Schmalenberg - April 24, 2017 at 06:07 PM

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“ Dearest Jim, Danny and Claudia,  
How saddened I am to learn of the passing of Cemery. What beautiful memories are available to all of us who knew her. You all have been blessed through her life and her wonderful contributions. May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bring you comfort at this time and in the days to come. As you walk through the time of loss, may HIS strength and love be yours. Love and prayers, Judith Danford

**Judith Danford** - April 24, 2017 at 12:26 PM