



## Judith Heric James

May 24, 1939 - April 29, 2017

Judith Heric James, born May 24, 1939, beloved wife of Robert 'Bob' James, devoted mother of Hilary (Kevin DiSimone), grandmother of Ava Marie DiSimone was called home to God April 29, 2017. Judy is survived by her sister Linda (Jerry Carlson) niece Amanda (John Pampu), nephew Jon Carlson (Frances); her sister-in-law Katie (Bob Sharp) nephews Bradley Allen (Gigi) and Tony Allen (Kelli Keough)

Judy had many great nieces and great nephews who thought 'Goo Goo' was a riot and a huge supporter of their many activities; Braden, Andrew, Zachary, Gabrielle, Colette, Ella and Marco Pampu, Jacob, Lilian and Jude Carlson, Jay and Grace Keough-Allen and Chad Allen.

Although Judy was a highly educated woman, with a BA and MA from the University of Michigan, as her family we will remember her for her keen intellect, logical mind, quick sense of humor, gifted culinary skills and most of all her incredible clear and true soprano voice. She had musical abilities beyond her educational background! Her loving husband of 53 years says, "she was my best friend, best critic & advisor, the love of my life. Her uncanny ability to understand, appreciate and get to the basic root values of art, made it possible for me to pursue my career. I feel her presence in every note, every gesture".

Judy was happiest phone in one hand, cup of coffee in the other with a cat at her feet, offering a supportive ear or word of advice to friends and family. She would often be found with a book in her hand, picking roses in her garden, or settled cozily by the fireplace surrounded by her loved ones with the prospect of a lovely glass of chardonnay sometime after 5 pm. She was a fiercely loyal and trusted confidante to her friends and she was the person you could place next to anyone at a party, because she could charm everyone and entertain them better than a Broadway comedy! There is much we could write about her activities and successes however having lived a long and full life, it is her essence that we celebrate! One of her dearest friends in life famed Broadway director Jack G. O'Brien says of her: "We survive. We endure. We ripen too and with Gods good grace, we go on fueled by the happiest of memories of the most indelible hilariously strident, whip-smart

and canny person I have ever known.....Judy James. “

Judy was a rare individual, a ‘singular’ woman whose joy came from family and husband; oh yes, and cats. She dealt with her prolonged illness with great dignity and her brave fight was admired by all who knew her none more than her loving and devoted caregivers, Henry and Susan Somero and the amazing caring staff at Orchard Creek, Skilled Nursing.

Saying goodbye to a beloved individual is never easy but Judy was so vibrant and vivid that she will remain in our hearts and minds for our lifetimes.

We deeply mourn her loss, but are grateful that her spirit is finally free.

A private celebration of Judy’s life will be held at a later date. We encourage you to demonstrate your appreciation of Judy by giving to either 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Stark County, OH Team Judy, Team Captain Hilary DiSimone: [act.alz.org](http://act.alz.org) or The Cherryland Humane Society, Traverse City, MI

# Comments

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“ Like others here, I am grateful for every moment spent in the amazing presence of Judy James! I marveled at her ability to make me feel so good and so at home - from the very first meeting, an uproarious dinner at Amical that I will never forget. Bob, Hilary and Linda thank you for allowing me to be a part of her life, she will forever be a part of mine. Love to you all.  
Nancy

**Nancy** - May 09, 2017 at 08:05 AM

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“ Oh, Hilary. I'm so sorry for your loss of this amazing mama. She was very kind to me the summer we were Golden Garters. I wish you and your family peace.

If you're in TC and would like to meet, please contact me.

Love to you.

Carla Weaver  
cweave3@gmail.com

**Carla Weaver** - May 08, 2017 at 10:31 AM

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“ Judy James touched the lives of so many with her loving and kind spirit. We will forever be grateful for Judy's presence in our lives. To Bob, Hilary and family, our heartfelt love and condolences are with you. May God continue to Comfort and Bless You.  
With Love,  
Al & Theresa Turner

**Al Turner** - May 07, 2017 at 06:19 PM

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“ We all loved Judy James! Anyone fortunate enough know her was blessed by Judy's quick wit, honesty and ability to make you feel right at home in Her presence. I am one of the many beneficiaries of Judy's supportive ear, wisdom and advice that I will be forever grateful for! She leaves an indelible imprint on my heart and the fond memories of the times we shared together (either on the phone or in person) will always bring a smile to my face.

Here's celebrating the LIFE of our dear and beloved Judith Heric James!

With love & prayers,  
Nathan & the entire East Family

**Nathan East** - May 07, 2017 at 04:22 PM

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“ I met Judy in 2000 while working at Long Lake Animal Hospital. She was a one of a kind lady. I always loved her visits. She loved her cats, like no other. Judy was the epitome of grace. She always had the best stories, and made me laugh every time I saw her. She will always hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

**Kara Emerich** - May 07, 2017 at 08:01 AM

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“ Bob and Judy were together as long as I've known him. Always at his back. Our hearts go out to Bob & Hilary & all that knew and loved her. With love from Will and Sandrine Lee

**Will Lee** - May 06, 2017 at 10:51 AM

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“ I met Judy when I was working on an album cover with Bob back in the last century. She was immediately kind and inquisitive and made me feel like I had been her friend for ages. Bob and Judy were a perfect couple, loving and caring. I am heartbroken at her loss. Thoughts and prayers for comfort to Bob and Hilary....

**John Russell** - May 06, 2017 at 08:38 AM

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“ It is because of your support that your husband could produce wonderful music. And I do not know how much they enriched us. I'm really thankful to you. In peace.



**Naoto Kuno** - May 05, 2017 at 04:56 PM