



Kathleen A. Foster

April 17, 1944 - November 6, 2020

Kathleen A Foster (Kathy), 73, of Grand Traverse County, passed away on November 6, 2020. She was born on April 17, 1944 in Hazel Park, Michigan, to the late William J. and Lola D. (Nixon) Foster.

Kathy was a loving and giving person to her family and friends. She loved getting together with friends and family to play games, talk and laugh. Kathy was also an accomplished quilt seamstress. She made many beautiful quilted pieces for family and friends.

Kathy graduated from Clawson High School, Clawson, Michigan, in 1965. She was an accomplished member of the high school band, playing flute. During high school, she enjoyed learning languages including Spanish and French. Kathy attended Central Michigan University from 1965 to 1969 and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Spanish with a secondary teaching certificate. She taught high school Spanish for one year before returning to the Detroit to pursue interest in the law. Kathy worked as a law clerk for several judges, eventually attending Wayne State University Law School obtaining her Juris Doctor in 1986. During her time at Wayne State University Law School, Kathy was selected to serve on Law Review.

Kathy worked as a Commissioner with the Michigan Supreme Court from 1997 to 2010. During her time at the court she was charged with the responsibility to review all cases coming before the Court and preparing recommendation for the Justices as to disposition of the cases.

On retiring from the Court in December of 2010, Kathy moved from her home in Mason, Michigan to her new home in Traverse City. Since her time in Traverse City, Kathy has used her skill as a volunteer with Conflict Resolution Services (CRS) offering pro Bono mediation services as directed by local courts and serving on the CRS Executive Board. Kathy also participated in a local book club and with the Dolly Parton group to provide books to children.

Kathy is survived by two sisters, Deborah (Larry) Lehmann and Patricia (Patrick) Conaton, and one brother, James (Alice) Foster. She is also survived by 4 nephews, 3 nieces and lots of grand nephews and nieces. In addition, Kathy leaves behind several special friends including Kathy Dawson, Patti Stinson, and Calvin Sterk.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her

Kathleen's remains will be placed in the Columbarium within Central United Methodist Church, Traverse City, MI near where her parents remains are located. Due to COVID-19, a memorial gathering will be planned at a later date.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ I have a lot of great memories of Kathy. I met Kathy in law school over 30 years ago, off-and-on we worked together in both public service and private practice, and we remained good friends ever since. Kathy was a truly a wonderful friend and human being--brilliant, kind, caring, generous, empathetic, always reasonable, fair-minded with a great sense of humor, and she was a blessing to everyone who knew her. Kathy had the highest esteem, concern, and love for her family during her life, and deeply appreciated their support and care for her during her passing. I will always remember Kathy with fondness and thankfulness because she was a great friend and a wonderful person. Cheers to you Kathy! Calvin Sterk

Calvin Sterk - November 30, 2020 at 03:49 PM



“ I had the pleasure of serving with Kathy on the CRS Board of Directors. She was a friend and valuable member of CRS and her thoughtful comments and input will be missed. It was an honor to serve with Kathy and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family at this difficult time.

Greg Thiess

Gregory Thiess - November 15, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ I was so very lucky to have had Kathy as my closest friend for the last 26 years. I have never known a kinder, smarter, harder-working, or more compassionate person, and I will miss her terribly. -- Kathy Dawson

Kathy Dawson - November 10, 2020 at 08:38 PM



“ Kathy was a loving sister who I will miss dearly. Her love of family and friends was one her strong points. Kathy loved playing games at Christmas when our entire family was together. She also just enjoyed listening to everyone laugh and talk catching up with her many nephews and nieces. I will miss our long telephone talks where we laughed a lot but also discussed multiple subjects. She was taken way too soon. Love you Kathy!!

Patty Conaton - November 10, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ I truly loved Kathy Foster. She was so smart, kind, and an easy friend to make. When she joined our church book group she became an instant favorite. When she left we all missed her. Then she miraculously returned, because she found the Lansing area unfriendly. She found friends in us. If Covid had not happened we all would have been there to visit and remind her of God's love for her and our love for her. I am really really sad she left our world way too soon.



kathy Tulgestke - November 09, 2020 at 08:24 AM



“ Kathy was a warm and sensitive lady, always a good conversationalist. She was part of my reading group at Central United Methodist Church, and introduced me to author Louise Penny. My sincere condolences to her family.

Luana L Dueweke - November 07, 2020 at 07:30 AM