



Louie Dr. Lou Ursu

January 21, 1934 - December 4, 2020

Louie "Dr. Lou" Ursu, 86, of Traverse City passed away Friday, December 4, 2020 at Cherry Hill Haven.

Dr. Lou was born in Romania to the late Marion and Livia (Beseneautn) Ursu on January 21, 1934. Dr. Lou and his family escaped from Romania when he was very young. They traveled by train and boat through France, across the English Channel and across the Atlantic. A German U-boat stopped them at one point and searched their boat. They escorted a few people off the boat but his family made it through that scare. Lou's mom was a very organized woman and took great care of her family. They traveled to the US with only two wicker trunks. One of the trunks was filled with dried meats and canned fruits. She took care to be sure they would be well fed on the journey to the US.

Dr. Lou married the love of his life, Doris Margaret Medel on June 21, 1958 in Grosse Point, MI. Together they shared a wonderful life together.

Dr. Lou was a dentist in Traverse City for over 40 dedicated years. He was very generous as a dentist and provided a lot of pro bono care or care for trade. Dr. Lou was a member of the American Dental Association and the Arts Council. He was considered a renaissance man by many and enjoyed being a Bonsai artist, painter, master gardener, baker, teddy bear maker, bible teacher, singer in the choir and a golfer. In his younger years he volunteered a great deal at the Romanian Baptist Church in Detroit.

Surviving Dr. Lou is his wife Doris of almost 63 devoted years, son Brian (Joan) Ursu of Leland, grandchildren, Leland, Olivia, Christopher, and Maggie, and exchange granddaughter Elizabeth from Ghana, siblings Evita Ursu and Samuel (Evelyn) Ursu and many other loving family members and friends.

Dr. Lou is preceded in death by his parents and son's Jeffery and David.

A memorial service will be held in the Gardens at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home at 11am on Monday, June 21, 2021. Pastor Jack Steenbergh will officiate.

Events

JUN Memorial Service 11:00AM

21

The Gardens at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 21 at 10:01 AM



“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Louie Dr. Lou Ursu. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - June 15 at 11:51 AM



“ Tom and I are so sorry to hear of the passing of Lou. I worked for Lou as a Dental Assistant and Office Manager. I then went on to a career in Nursing and recently retired. I had been trying to contact Lou and Doris. Many great memories. Lou also sang at our wedding. Doris, Brian and family our thoughts and prayers are with you during this great time of sadness .

Rebecca Bertha' - May 12 at 06:51 PM



“ Doris, Brian & Family,
I am so sorry to hear of the passing of "Uncle Lou". I was his dental assistant for over 3 years. He taught me alot, but most of all, taught to always hug when you arrive and leave every day. Some of his jokes were funny, some not so funny, but always had one to tell. Rest in peace my friend. Love Judy Arnold

judy arnold - December 30, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ Dear Doris, Brian and family,
May our loving Lord wrap His arms of comfort, love, strength and peace around you.
Dr. Lou was a extrovert that touched the souls of so many.
Doris you know how much I enjoyed serving you at Chamberlain's Restaurant
because it wasn't work for me it was a daily dose of positivity. Both of you were so
kind and encouraging as we would actually exchange happenings. Doris, you and Dr.
Lou raised two wonderful sons that I had the opportunity to share some happy times
with. I believe David was there when his Dad entered heaven. Just know I'm thinking
about you. May all those memories carry all of you in your days ahead. I love all of
you. RIP dear Dr. Lou

Darlene Miller



Darlene A. Miller - December 20, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ I'm so sorry to here of Dr Ursu's passing. He was the best at what he did. I loved
Doris and Lou so much. I have fond memories of coming in your office in Traverse
City. Love and prayers to your family. ~Bethany Woolston (Kniss)



Bethany Woolston - December 15, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ Dear Doris and family. So sorry to hear of Dr. Lou's passing. He was such a
compassionate, generous, and funny guy! I have fond memories of his service to my
family and myself for so many years. He will be greatly missed. Our hearts are with
you. Sandi Bauml Clark.

Sandi Clark - December 15, 2020 at 01:12 PM



“ Dear Doris, Brien, and family,
We are heartbroken and very sad to learn about Lou’s passing. He was an amazing person, dentist, neighbor. We loved how he always enjoyed learning. From creating bears to baking bread he never grew tired of creating. We often shared ideas about techniques.
Know that he will be alive in our hearts and memories. Sending lots of prayers to each of you. Sue and Fred Arnold

sue Arnold - December 14, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Dear Doris and family, I was saddened to hear of Lou's passing. The world has lost an extraordinary person. I first met Lou and Doris in 1975 when our builder arranged for us to fly to Georgia to purchase carpeting. Lou was just transitioning his practice up north. I was so impressed with Lou that he became our family dentist until he retired. During those years Lou learned to make stuffed bears and then taught a class in bear making, which I took. I still have my "Louie Bear" and he followed me here to Bay Ridge. What a wonderful reminder of a man who had such curiosity and love of life. May the Lord give you comfort during this difficult time. Barbara White

Barbara.White - December 14, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ As neighbors many years ago, I knew the Ursu family! Doris and Brian, I am so sorry for your loss! You will be in my thoughts and prayers!

Gayle (Schmidt) Skubick

Gayle (Schmidt) Skubick - December 14, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ I met Lou some years ago at our Bonsai club meeting. He was fun and so full of life! What a great life that touched so many of us. -Danielle Smith

Danielle Smith - December 14, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ Dear Doris and Brian, I'm saddened by your loss of Louis. I only had a few contacts with him at OMPS during Brian's year with me, but those contacts left in my mind an admiration for a man who demonstrated great kindness and compassion to everyone he met. He was a great person to have met. My sincere condolences to you and your families.

Arno Kramer

Arno Kramer - December 13, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Doris, Brian, and family, Nancy and I are thinking of you upon learning of "Uncle Lou"s passing. I wish to pay tribute to Lou in the highest professional sense possible. I found his philosophy of treatment was very close to that of my own, and he graciously offered his mentorship and advice to me on many occasions. He was able to treat my daughter when she was very young because my abilities in pedodontics were very limited. I have always maintained that no dentist can be honored more than to have such a colleague treat him/her as a patient. Such was the case when I treated Dr. Lou for his dental needs. May you be comforted by God' grace, and by knowing that we care. Raleigh and Nancy Newman

Raleigh R. Newman - December 13, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ I'll always remember his kindness at opening his office at ten in the evening to help a friend of mine with a bad tooth. His kindness and humor and able hands put the problem to rest. You could tell what kind of a man he was. That was nearly thirty years ago and the act of kindness made an impression on me. Cathy Griffin

Cathy Griffin - December 12, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ Brian, Joan and family, we are sad for your loss. We didn't know Dr. Lou's history, but can see his strength and passion in his son Brian. For that we are all grateful! May you all find peace in his passing.

Blake, Yvette, Sage and Tristan Ringsmuth

Blake Ringsmuth - December 12, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Lou and Doris took me under their wings after my mom committed suicide in 1968. Lou was the father figure I needed and encouraged me to set goals and achieve them. I took his advice, which probably saved my life. Doris prayed for me and made me pb&j sandwiches more times than I can count :-) — with the crust cutoff. It's because of them that I'm a follower of Jesus. Lou, I can hear your Savior now saying, "Welcome home, Lou! Well done good and faithful servant! Enter into your rest.”

Greg (greggie) Eckel - December 12, 2020 at 09:11 AM



“ Thinking of the Ursu family and sending our love.
Maurie & Betsy Allen.

Maurie & Betsy Allen - December 11, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Lou's passing. Lou, Doris and their kids were our neighbors on Braemar Dr. for many years. Our kids played together. Lou was also a professional colleague and for a time his office was just a few addresses away from mine on 8th Street. To say that Lou "marched to the beat of a different drummer" would be an understand statement. Lou was the drummer! He was way ahead of the rest of us and we knew it. Some were not happy with his "style" but as for me, I found Lou impressive.

When the City, in their infinite wisdom, decided to REZONE the entire length of the 8th Street corridor so that no building that had ever been a residence could be used except for the purpose it was being used for at the time of sale or it reverted to Residential from Commercial thus reducing the value of our properties. I have resisted that decision with some others property owners for a few meetings to no avail but when Lou heard of this change, he was on it like a hen on a Junebug. He started an 8th Street coalition and enlisted some powerful property owners, the most notable of which was the CEO and General Manager of the Cone Drive and the owner of the Bayshore Inn. When they arrived at the next meeting, the decision was quickly "Tabled" and it never reappeared.

Lou was a powerful guy and he will be missed.

Our condolences to Doris and Brian and their families.

Norm and Jane Fred

Norman Fred - December 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ Dear Brian, I was saddened to hear of Louie’s passing. My fond memories of him revolve around his wonderful volunteering for the Cherry Festival as a great photographer. He was always at the ready when I needed some impromptu shots for our many sponsors. Always with energy; always with a smile. I miss those days.... Peace to you and your family. CO

Chuck OConnor - December 11, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Ursu, Brian, and family,
Oh! I just learned of Lou's passing! I'm so, so sorry your hearts are sad.
What I respect so much about Dr. Ursu is that he was a man who used all of his gifts - as a dentist, baker, bonsai ... creator :0) I'm SURE there were other talents that I'm forgetting. (Was he a pilor?) He was amazing.
Have courage that someday you'll reunite in Heaven! Be at peace.
Diana

Diana Tarsa - December 10, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ Dear Doris, Brian, Joan and Family,

I enclose my condolences for such a pleasant man and teacher to learn from. How I enjoyed Dr. Lou, and Doris too on any occasion we were together. Their gardening and housekeeping skills were so beautiful. Volunteering in the community and helping others was certainly true to their characters. I know that he helped those in great need of dentistry. I particularly recall a severely handicapped person that he took right into his chair, assuring her mother that he could take care of this "little angel".

So proud to know Lou and Doris, we considered them our friends and when they moved away, it was our loss too. They were special to Mareesa, my daughter.

RIP dear Lou. I know you'll be busy with the other angels in heaven; sometimes even watching out for us.

Mary Orth

Mary Orth - December 09, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ Thanks Mary. That is very sweet.
Brian

Brian Ursu - December 09, 2020 at 03:02 PM



“ My condolences to this family. I had the pleasure of working with Olivia at the Meadowbrook Theatre.....Peace to all.

Michael Rice - December 11, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ Dr Louie, Dentist of the Stars. When my wife and I moved to Traverse City in 1981 we needed a dentist and fortunately Dr Lou was able to take us into his practice. My teeth were not the best at the time, and Lou put me on a strict regiment of brushing, flossing, and fluoride. He set me on a path of proper oral hygiene for the rest of my life. I loved bantering with him during my visits, and he told me many stories about his dental work on actors who came to the Cherryland Playhouse. When I was forced to move down state for a time, Lou tried to help me find a business to buy in Traverse City so I could remain in town. He was always trying to help out. One of the best people I have ever known.

Rick Birndorf - December 07, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ My condolences to Doris.He was our family dentist for many years. He was a caring man in so many ways. Our son had a hockey injury to his teeth, his office was closed, there was no hesitation from him, telling me to meet him at his office. He took care of everything to help oit my son.A very compassionate man.
May he R.I.P.
Pam Warner

Pam Warner - December 07, 2020 at 07:55 AM



“ Thank you, Dr. Lou.
Thinking of Dr. Lou's family & friends.
Peace,
Susan Odgers

susan Odgers - December 06, 2020 at 04:13 PM