



Marjorie Lou Alfonso

November 14, 1931 - July 15, 2015

Marjorie Lou Alfonso, 83, of Traverse City, happily sang her final swan song on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at Traverse Manor.

On November 14, 1931 Alice and Clayton Gilbo welcomed their youngest daughter into the world. Marjorie was the 5th of 8 children in the Gilbo clan. In 1941, her mother, Alice, died unexpectedly. Within a few short months, Marjorie's older sister, Katherine, also died suddenly. At the age of 10, Marjorie was told that she was now the woman of the house. She assumed this responsibility graciously and made certain her 6 brothers were always well fed and well cared for.

In 1950, Marjorie and a group of girlfriends were invited to a Saturday night dance hall where she met a handsome young GI, John Alfonso. John and Marjorie were instantly attracted to each other, but John was being deployed to Korea in a few days. He boldly asked if he could have her address. The two struck up a long distance romance and John faithfully wrote love letters back home to Marjorie. His woo-ing worked.

On May 1, 1951 John and Marjorie were married at St. Alphonsus church in Grand Rapids. The couple always joked that they figured this Saint was a long lost relative that just got the spelling all wrong. Marjorie and John started their own family and were happily married for 48 years.

Marjorie was a member of the Peninsula Bible Church and would often tell Pastor John he was one of the best because she could almost stay awake for his whole sermon. Almost.

Marjorie enjoyed her last 10 years residing at Traverse Manor where she was known for her love of swans, infectious laugh, upbeat spirit and willingness to train all newcomers to her favorite card game, Kings in the Corner. However, she was a bit of a card shark and rumored to cheat.

The family would like to extend a very special thank you to the Traverse Manor staff,

especially Amanda, Ashley and Jim. Thank you for taking such exceptional care of Mom, she truly loved you. Thank you to Laura from Hospice for sharing one of your final conversations. When Laura asked Marjorie about her life she pointed to the many family photos that decorated her walls and stated, "You see my family? They tell my story."

Surviving Marjorie are her children, Carol (Steven) Nickerson, Michael (Bonita "Kay") Alfonso, Margianne Alfonso, Bonnie Alfonso, grandchildren, Christina (Michael) Abbott, Kyndra Nickerson, Stefanie (Jordan) Warzecha, Tyler Lyon, Megan Alfonso, Grant Alfonso, great grandchildren Nicholas and Dominic and many other loving family members and friends.

Marjorie is preceded in death by her parents, Alice and Clayton, her siblings: John, Bob, Katherine, Donnie, Ernie, Kenny and Tom. Her husband, John and beloved daughter, Mary.

Private family services have taken place. Kindly share thoughts and memories with the Alfonso family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Brickways, Hospice or the Peninsula Bible Church Food Pantry.

Comments



“ Craig & I are so sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers. Please let me know if there's anything we can do.

Kathy Feese - July 22, 2015 at 01:08 PM



“ Thank you Kathy.

Bonnie Alfonso - July 23, 2015 at 12:33 PM



“ Summers on Bluff Road
Swimming all afternoon at our beach.
Playing Pokeno in the evening
Having a bonfire with somores
It was the best
Love and Prayers to you all

Mary Anne Dilloway - July 21, 2015 at 09:34 AM



“ Thank you so much, wonderful memories!!!

Margianne - July 21, 2015 at 12:43 PM



“ Awww, thank you Mary Anne, Don't forget prisoner and snickerdoodles!

Bonnie Alfonso - July 23, 2015 at 12:35 PM



“ We will forever love your mom and her kindness to us. Steve and I became "orphans" with each of us losing our last parent in 2010. Your mom was so gracious to let us call her "mom". We loved her like she was our mom. Thank you for sharing her with us.

May God hold you during this difficult time.

Steve and Sherry Sisco

Sherry and Steve Sisco - July 20, 2015 at 10:53 AM



“ Thank you both. She loved you as well.

Margianne Alfonso - July 20, 2015 at 03:40 PM



“ What a wonderful obituary for your mom! Thinking of and praying for all of you as you adjust to losing her.

Linda Dicks

Linda Dicks - July 19, 2015 at 03:52 PM



“ Thank you Linda! Appreciate your prayers.

Margianne Alfonso - July 20, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ Dear Alfonso Family,
So very sorry to hear of your loss. Your mom and dad should be so proud of the incredible family they created. I have been blessed to know you all. You will all be in my thought and prayers.
Most Sincerely,
Kathy Stimac

Kathy Stimac - July 19, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ Thank you for your kindness and warm thoughts, Kathy. xo, b

Bonnie Alfonso - July 20, 2015 at 03:34 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to,your family.

Patty Maxbauer - July 18, 2015 at 10:20 AM



“ Thank you Patty.

Bonnie Alfonso - July 19, 2015 at 07:04 AM



“ Connie Pulte Deneweth sent a virtual gift in memory of Marjorie Lou Alfonso



Connie Pulte Deneweth - July 18, 2015 at 08:01 AM



“ Thank you my dear friend. <3

Bonnie Alfonso - July 19, 2015 at 07:04 AM



“ May the best memories of your dear parents live forever in your heart and soul. John and Marjorie must have been amazing people because their children are all so wonderful. Well done Alfonso parents, your hardworking love of life, high spirits and commitment to family carries on and on.

The Deneweth family holds all of you close to our hearts as you celebrate the lives of your mother and father.

Lots of love,

Rick and Connie Deneweth



connie deneweth - July 17, 2015 at 10:22 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words and support, Rick and Connie. So grateful and honored to call you dear friends. <3

Bonnie Alfonso - July 18, 2015 at 08:03 AM



“ I met Marj. while working at the Manor and we really clicked. She even adopted my husband. We would go out to lunch and I'd take her to the Old Town Play house for shows. She especially loved the musical ones. Even when I left the Manor, I'd go back to polish her swans for her. I also remember her love for Elvis. We'd sing his songs together while she taught me to play Kings in a corner. Which I then taught my family. She loved her family and talked about the cottage a lot. I shall miss her. She was one of a kind that I am thankful to have met and had in my life. I thank you her family for sharing her with us.

Debbie Long - July 17, 2015 at 04:03 PM



“ Thank you for being part of her journey, Debbie.

Bonnie Alfonso - July 17, 2015 at 09:19 PM



“ She often told me about your outings! She loved her time with you. Thank you for being such a great friend to mom.

Margianne Alfonso - July 20, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Alfonso Family at this time. It is very difficult when we lose a loved one, but the warm memories live on in our hearts.
Our deepest sympathy,
Dawn & Fred Bottomley

Dawn B Bottomley - July 17, 2015 at 01:16 PM



“ Thank you Dawn and Fred, she sure enjoyed your visits.

Bonnie Alfonso - July 17, 2015 at 09:21 PM