



Mary Elizabeth Lyons

June 22, 1921 - March 15, 2014

Mary Elizabeth Lyons died peacefully at home on March 15, 2014. Mary Liz was born in Pontiac, Michigan on June 22, 1921 to Robert A. and Gertrude M. Armstrong. Mary Liz attended Vassar College and afterwards, while working in Washington D.C. as a researcher in the Latin American Division of the OSS, she met her husband, Dr. Robert T Lyons. Mary and Robert were married in Pontiac, Michigan on May 30, 1947. Thus began a long learning experience as a mother of six children and wife of a busy physician.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brother, Dr Robert M. Armstrong and his wife Barbara, and granddaughter Brianne Lyons. Surviving Mary are the 6 “long learning experience” children , Michael (Debbie), Steven (Phyllis), Matthew, and Dr. David Lyons (Julie), Mandy Rebone, and Rebecca (Kent) Holton, grandchildren Brandon Finnila, Andrew Rebone, Tim and Grace Lyons, and Rhea and Emma Lyons and great-granddaughter, Abigail Finnila, nephew Rob Armstrong, nieces Kim Silcox, Kathy Koski, Susan Payne and their dear families. Mary leaves behind in good care her loyal and very precious companion, Merli.

Mary was a perpetual student and volunteer and a champion of Monarch butterflies. She was involved and supported many organizations; among them were the County Discussion Group, Genuine Leelanau, Great Books, Common Cause, Leelanau Democratic Women, League of Women Voters, Little Garden Club, Sharecare of Leelanau and Heifer international. Mary was a docent and past board member of the Leelanau Conservancy and was passionate about farmland preservation and promoting the return of farmers markets to Leelanau County. She loved classical music, swimming in Lake Michigan (Gimmi’s lake), and reading on the beach and spent almost entire summers in her gardens. Family and friends were the most important part of her life and she was overjoyed when she could help people connect to each other. She was also a world traveler and enjoyed experiencing other cultures.

A celebration of Mary’s life will be held in Northport at a later date in May. In lieu of flowers, Mary is wishing that donations be made in her memory to the Leelanau

Conservancy, P. O. Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654 (<http://www.leelanauconservancy.org/donate>) or Sharecare of Leelanau, 7401 E. Duck Lake Rd. #600, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653-8701 or to a charity of one's choice. For any more information on the celebration, please contact Becky at beckenth@localnet.com .

Please share your memories of Mary with her family by way of her online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 395 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Comments



“ Dear Becky, Kent and the entire Lyons family,

I am so deeply sorry for your loss. I wish you and all whose lives your Mom touched the strength and love to get through this difficult time. What a lovely picture of your Mom (& Merli) you have presented the world. You can still see her genuine, kind heart shine through the same as when we were kids. I'll never forget the first time I got to go to Ten Buck with Becky and I ate too many smores, had a wicked stomach ache, and your Mom made me some concoction that fizzed and it made me feel so much better. I hope the dedication and commitment she had in helping the world be a better place is carried on for generations to come.

Sending prayers and much love,
Christie (Pearson) Vrevich

Christie - March 26, 2014 at 09:19 PM



“ Thank you so much, Christie. I am so glad that mom made happy memories for so many people to cherish through their lifetime.

Becky Holton - May 15, 2014 at 06:45 AM



“ Becky, Kent and Lyons family,

Our family is so blessed to have spent time with Mary Lyons! She is such a kind women . We felt like extended family. Our family knows her youngest child best. The age difference never mattered to her. Each time we would "pop in" she was so hospitable and welcoming. We will always remember how she gave so much and asked for nothing in return. Mrs. Lyons was one of Gods angels on earth , and we are sure also an angel in heaven too. She taught us a lot about nature , gardening.. The plants she gave us "cuttings " continue to thrive . Many great memories, of a great women.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jamie lynn, Paul, Jenna, Kara Grodecki - March 25, 2014 at 12:33 AM



“ To all of the Grodecki family -thank you for sharing your love of mom - she would be pleased to know that the cuttings are thrivng in such a loving environment.

Becky Holton - May 15, 2014 at 06:46 AM



“ Becky and family,

So very sorry for your deep loss.
Shelley Enger

Shelley Enger - March 20, 2014 at 07:06 PM



“ We will miss our dear friend and neighbor more than we can really share. She was special to us and our children, Erin and Cory. We shared many events over the years. Mary was so fun to visit and we looked forward to our many chats. She was thoughtful, kind, wise, and always a good listener. We visited often because we shared so many pet playdates--between her companions, Whim and Merli, and ours, Lucas and McQuiggin. We had an 'open door' policy with Mary and always were pleased to be able to share conversation and laughter with her--sometimes quick visits and sometimes lengthy. Mary was very special to us. We will miss her and we send our thoughts to all those she loved and to Merli.
Jeremy and Mike Connolly

Jeremy Connolly - March 20, 2014 at 11:22 AM



“ She was indeed a special lady who cared so much for others and nature. Through her encouragement she introduced me to gardening for the community and beautifying the Leelanau Twp. library. I will always be grateful. Mary Dietrich

mary - March 20, 2014 at 08:38 AM



“ Becky & Family,
I am so honored to have shared a small bit of such a beautiful woman's life. A joy to know and a joy to spend time sharing thoughts, both serious and silly. Thank you and may you all have peace in the days ahead sharing the wonderful memories you all must have of your Mother.
Your friend, Georgienne

Georgienne Hammer - March 18, 2014 at 02:50 PM



“ Becky,

I am thinking of you and your family. I will look forward to you sharing more stories of your mom on our morning get togethers. While I never met her, the picture you have posted of her and her dog sums up a beautiful woman that I now know had a wonderful and productive life. Sending you strength in the days ahead. Hugs, Mary Coates

Mary Coates - March 18, 2014 at 10:37 AM