



Nellie Mae Pitcher

November 11, 1923 - February 15, 2019

Nellie M. (Wood) Pitcher, 95 of Traverse City, passed away on February 15, 2019. Nell was born on November 11, 1923 in Traverse City to the late Lillian (Lardie) and Stanley Wood. Her family moved to Mapleton on the Old Mission Peninsula when she was a child. She attended Mapleton School through 9th grade. She then transferred to St. Francis High where she graduated in 1940. At age 13 she moved to the home of her aunt and uncle Loretta (Lardie) and Arnold White. In their home was the Peninsula Telephone Company Switchboard. She worked there as a telephone operator, housekeeper, and baby sitter until she moved to Traverse City in 1943 and went to work for Lyle Wilhem DDS.

On August 23, 1947 she married William B. Pitcher and moved with him to Mackinaw City where he was employed as an agent for Railway Express. Over the years they moved several times about Michigan and Indiana. Finally, Bill was moved back to Traverse City in 1959. In these years they had 5 daughters who now survive. Bill died in October of 2000.

Nell worked for 9 years as an office manager, hostess and waitress, if the need arose, at the Bill Thomas Restaurant. When the restaurant sold she went to work for Engstrom, Hicks Insurance which later became GHA Insurance. Nell worked there until her retirement in 1993.

Nell was a longtime member of St. Francis Parish where she sang in the adult choir for many years until health issues forced her to give it up at age 95.

Surviving Nell are her daughters, Molly (Jerry) Place, Linda Pitcher, Carol (Hal) Deal, Brenda Lau, and Jennifer Heinfling; brothers Jim (Pat) Wood, Tom (Shirley) Wood; sister-in-law Karen Wood; 7 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Nell is preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters, Betty Fitzgerald, Donna Lewis, Barbara Scarpelli, brothers Stanley, Francis, and George Wood, along with son-in-law's

Gordon Lau and Jeff Heinfling.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11am on Tuesday February, 19, 2019 at St. Francis Catholic Church with a visitation beginning at 10am and a rosary prayed at 10:45. Committal services will be announced in the spring at Oakwood Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Hospice of Michigan or a charity of your choice.

The family would like to offer many thanks to Ritter's Assisted Living for the wonderful care Nell received over the years. Nell often referred to Ritter's as home. Their love, kindness, and understanding meant the world to Nell and her family. The family also thanks Hospice of Michigan for their care and support as Nell's health declined.

Kindly share thoughts and memories with Nell's family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

Cemetery

Oakwood Catholic Diocesan Cemetery

1720 Hannah Street
Traverse City, MI, 49686

Events

FEB 19 **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US,
49684

Comments



“ Nell holds a very special place in my heart and in the hearts of all my family that lived at 609 Webster. She shared her yard, as we called "the side yard", all throughout our childhood where endless games of ball, snowball fights, tag, hide-and-seek took place. I even mowed that yard for several years as my first job, followed by my brother. She even shared our home with my family for a short while. Nell was more than a neighbor to us, she was an unofficial grandma to us kids and the kiddos that came to daycare at our house; she was an unofficial mom to my parents; and a dear friend to all. She had such a sweet, nurturing nature about her along with a wonderful sense of humor. Days eating mulberries and having purple stained feet will be cherished forever... we could not have asked for more wonderful neighbors than Bill and Nell. To all the Pitcher girls and the rest of the family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you as you celebrate a wonderful life well lived.

emily huston - February 19 at 12:17 PM



“ I have many fond memories of family picnics at Aunt Nell's when we visited Traverse City in the summers. Later when I went to NMC she and uncle Bill were the only family at my graduation as my mom could not make the trip. Nell was such a blessing to me in my mom's last weeks. She sat with me for her last surgery and cried with me when she passed. She will be missed.

Gwen Esposito - February 18 at 07:17 PM



“ Brenda -
You have always provided me with words of wisdom and truth, little poems to make me cry and smile at the same time, and shared in the love of a favorite song by a beloved voice (it's a wonderful world). I sit here and cannot provide you with anything but love and prayers. Please know we are thinking about you and your family and the prayers are flowing. I hope you feel the love, strength and wisdom that you always display for others. So sorry and love ya to pieces!
Tammy and family

Tammy Knudsen - February 17 at 01:08 PM



“ Oh sweet Brenda and Family,
Know that my babies and I are thinking of and praying for you all as you move through this tough time. Love you bunches
Blaire, Char and Lizzie

Blaire Noren - February 17 at 12:27 PM



“ Brenda and family,
Thoughts and continued prayers for all of you during this sad and difficult time. With love,
Carrie

Carrie Mugerian - February 17 at 07:11 PM



“ Brenda and family,
We are so saddened by this news. Please know that lots of prayers are being offered for your family. We hope that you can feel the love coming your way and that it offers you some comfort in this time of sadness. Hugs and God bless you all.
Geri and Ray Maxbauer

Geri A Maxbauer - February 17 at 09:00 AM



“ Dear Nell's Family,

On the occasions I was at events with Nell, as well as seeing her at our local library, it was easy to realize this lady was a joy to be around. Her faith and love for our area spoke volumes in all her expressions. I've no doubt you know this to be the way it was with Nell, but I wanted to share my appreciation of her as well.

May you continue in life without her, but carry in your heart all that she was to so many; a joy to know.

Until you are all re-united with Him, who knows all things, feel forever blessed for the mother you had.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller Orth

Mary Orth - February 17 at 06:26 PM