



## Phyllis A. Gerhardt

July 26, 1930 - December 11, 2014

Phyllis Ann Gerhardt (Pelky) eighty-eight of Traverse City passed away Thursday, December 11, 2014 at Munson Medical Center. Phyllis was a native to Traverse City, born on July 30, 1926 to the late Donald J. Pelky and Grace A. Hilbert. Phyllis graduated from Central High School in 1944.

She married her loving husband of sixty-three years, Leonard Gerhardt, in Traverse City on November 10, 1951. In 1958, Phyllis and Leonard with three daughters in tow, moved to the Pacific Island of Guam, where Leonard served in the United States Coast Guard. While on Guam, Phyllis's love of children shined through, as she became a Child Care Supervisor at the Naval Base. After several moves mirroring her husband's military posts throughout the United States, Phyllis returned to Traverse City. Furthering her community ties, Phyllis was a Real Estate Broker for fifteen years. As an active volunteer Phyllis served as a board member of the Cherryland Humane Society for eleven years. Phyllis also volunteered for the National Cherry Festival, serving several positions spanning decades of service.

For Phyllis there was never any 'down-time' but 'spare time' carved out of a very active life. Phyllis was an avid reader and appreciated the beauty of flowers, especially orchids, which were her passion. She also enjoyed knitting baby blankets, bonnets, sweaters, and booties for grandchildren. She had a love for all animals, big (horses) or small (Yorky Poos, Millie and Emma).

Phyllis was a wonderful wife, a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She will be missed by her loving family who take great pride knowing through her effusive spirit, she touched so many lives over her 88 years. Surviving Phyllis are her husband, Leonard. Children: Grace A. Callahan (Michael) and Nancy G. Follett (Jack). Grandchildren: Jackie Rindlisbacher, Lisa Pfeiffenberger, Jamie Callahan, and Jennifer Callahan-Smith. Great grandchildren: Ashley, Ariel, Jacob, Jessica, Alexis, Jack, Colin, Kaylee, and Jared. Great-great grandchildren: Raymond and Molly. Preceded in death are her parents, two sisters, Donna Richard and Alma VerSnyder, and a daughter

Suzanne L. Gerhardt.

The funeral service will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Monday, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon immediately following in the parish center. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Cherryland Humane Society. Friends may sign the guestbook at: [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com)

The family gives special thanks to the entire Birchwood Nursing Home staff, with special appreciation to the Therapy Care department and caregivers Sharon, Cheryl, Loren.

We will always carry her memory in our hearts and celebrate her long, energetic life filled with loving family, great friends and furry companions.

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

# Events

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**DEC**   **Funeral Mass**                      11:00AM  
**22**

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Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
308 Cedar Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Len and Family members,  
Joe and I are praying for the Lord's comfort and strength. That all the precious memories of Phyllis will be a comfort to you. I will always remember her as being kind and thoughtful and always cheerful. She will be missed by all. The Lord's blessings to you and your families. The Schleichers, Joe and Helen

joe and helen schleicher - December 24, 2014 at 09:41 AM

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“ Len,

We're so sorry for your loss. During the many years we worked together, Phyllis was always so good to us and, from a professional perspective, she was flawless! Any documents she prepared were always on time and absolutely perfect. Phyllis will be missed. That special "twinkle" in her eye will always be a part of our memory.

Gary and Sandy Pownall

Gary Pownall - December 22, 2014 at 08:54 AM

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“ Len; Few still active at Real Estate One who remember (I was happy to see Lee Bussa's comments), but I do. I remember both you & Phyllis for your professionalism & integrity, and Phyllis for braving the ups & downs of the Closing Department with a wonderful spirit and unrelenting smile, before that duty was passed on to the Title Companies. I feel blessed to have known her, and you too, Len. Be strong; warmest wishes to you and all the family.

Jon Dayton - December 19, 2014 at 08:17 PM

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“ Len, Phyllis was a dear friend to Pauline and a wonderful asset to our shared business so many years ago. My deepest condolences to you and your family.  
Lee Bussa

Leon Bussa - December 18, 2014 at 08:26 AM

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“ Phyllis was a dear friend to so many. Her kindness and always a friendly smile will always be a memory for us. Len, you were a wonderful companion and caregiver to Phyllis. Our sympathy to you and all your family. Bob and Ann Witkop

Bob and Ann Witkop - December 17, 2014 at 02:28 PM

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“ Len-Sorry to hear of Phyllis's passing. Condolences to you and your family, I know we will all miss a great lady. Wendell

Wendell Mason - December 17, 2014 at 08:32 AM

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“ Len and family....Joe and I are so sorry to hear of Phyllis's passing. We just loved having breakfast with you, and Phyllis on Saturday mornings at Round's when we lived on State Street and the kids were just babies! That was years ago, but whenever we would run into you guys - at Kiwanis gatherings, or at church, shopping, . . . you would brighten my day!! I know Phyllis is beaming down upon us from Heaven!! Love and prayers for the family. Cheryl and Joe Stayman

Cheryl Stayman - December 15, 2014 at 08:57 AM

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“ Mr. Gerhardt and family:  
  
We are so very sorry for your loss.  
  
Lindy and Patty  
Miracle Ear

Miracle Ear - December 15, 2014 at 08:14 AM

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“ Phyllis was like a mom to me when I sold real estate at REO - she was the steady front desk presence who gently ruled and kept agents alert. She and Len were a wonderfully close couple, always together. Len, my thoughts are with you at this sad time.

Jackie (Lindberg) Freeman

Jackie Freeman - December 15, 2014 at 07:40 AM

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“ Phyllis was an absolutely beautiful person inside and out. Her and Len and Bonnie and Gerry would come into the restaraunt I worked at and sit at the same table and the entire staff truly looked forward to their visits. Phyllis was an extraordinary woman

and her kindness will never be forgotten. My heart aches for her family and friends. I extend my prayers to you all at this time! I've never had a customer who touched my heart the way Phyllis did.



**Kelsey Hyde** - December 14, 2014 at 07:48 PM

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“ To Len and family,  
May Our Loving Lord wrap His arms of comfort around all of you. So sorry for your loss...  
My memories of Phyllis started back in the days I work as a server at Chamberlain's Restaurant . Phyllis and Len would be our guests, and that started a wonderful relationship. Phyllis was, along w/Len a couple I looked forward not only to wait on but share some conversation and positive thinking. Seeing both of you at ICC was always a good feeling, that always brought smiles ,that continued throughout the years. My prayers are with all of you. RIP dear Phyllis.  
Darlene Miller

**Darlene Miller** - December 14, 2014 at 10:14 AM

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“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



**Jen Callahan & Dustin Smith** - December 13, 2014 at 02:39 AM