



Virginia Louise Prather

March 15, 1936 - April 17, 2020

Virginia “Ginny” Louise (Leach) Prather, born on March 15, 1936, graciously accepted her wings on Friday, April 17, 2020.

Most recently a resident of Elk Rapids and Traverse City, Michigan, Ginny was raised on a farm in Edwardsburg, Michigan, by the late Russell and Alberta (Tyler) Leach. She cherished the memories of her happy childhood and life on the farm. On August 14, 1955, she married the love of her life, Tom Prather, who preceded her in death on February 9, 2020. Throughout her life she was employed as an executive secretary and bookkeeper in many capacities. She was proud to have begun her career in the employ of Edward Lowe, the man who invented Kitty Litter, in Cass County, Michigan. Ginny and Tom moved from Dowagiac, Michigan to Springfield, Missouri and from there to Caldwell, Idaho, and Hood River, Oregon, where they were active in the community and made lasting friendships. Ginny was a member of the United Church of Christ in Hood River and a member of the Soroptimist International of Hood River. After moving to Elk Rapids 21 years ago, they made a new set of loving friends. Ginny was a member of the Community Choir in Elk Rapids for many years.

Ginny had a zest for life. She enjoyed baking, speed crocheting, and she was a champion baton twirler. She could do cartwheels in the lawn with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren well into her seventies. Above all, spending time with family was her greatest joy.

Virginia is survived by her two loving daughters; Ginny (David) MacDonald and Gwen Prather; five grandchildren Allie (Blake) Becker, Spree (Tibishi) MacDonald, Alden (Joshua) Griffus, Morgain MacDonald, and Eston Prather; and eight great-grandchildren, Nthabeleng, Bohlale, Pheladi, Otho, Leslie, Harlow, Josie and Amelia. She is also survived by her dear sister, Katie (Pat) Coakley, and brother, David Leach. Her older brother, Harold Leach, passed in 2006. “Aunt Ginny” is also survived by many well-loved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service honoring both Virginia and Thomas will take place at 11:00 a.m., with visitation starting at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City, Michigan 49684. A public virtual webcasting of the service can be viewed at <http://www.rjfh.tv>.

In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a memorial donation to the Alzheimer's Association, <https://alz.org>.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Ginny's family at her tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

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

Events

APR 17 Visitation 10:00AM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

APR 17 Memorial Service 11:00AM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

APR 17 Public Virtual Funeral Webcasting 11:00AM
www.rjfh.tv
MI, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 12 at 02:55 PM



“ Our loss is heaven's gain. Marg Guth, Hood River

Margaret Guth - December 05, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Buzz Ramsey - April 23, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ Ginny was a dedicated singer in the Elk Lake Community Choir for many years. She was a positive, happy person and always pleasant to be around. Quite witty when the mood struck her. I lost contact with Ginny some years ago and I am sorry that I was not privy to her failing health. She and Tom attended many of our social gatherings and were a blessed addition to our community choir. Contributing to this organization through singing helps to raise funds for a variety of needy organizations. Ginny was a blessing to me and our singing activities.
Cheryl Knight

Cheryl Knight - April 23, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ Tom and Ginny were two of my favorite resident's when I worked at Glen Eagle, as was Ginny's mom, Birdie. I loved having such intellectual conversations with Tom and Ginny. I am so glad I went to visit them both when they moved to Boardman Lake Glens.

April Putman - April 19, 2020 at 12:30 PM