



Joy Shirley (DesJardins) Willette

May 14, 1930 - February 25, 2020

Joy Shirley Willette, age 89, went to be with the Lord on February 25, 2020. Joy was born on May 14, 1930 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to George H. and Helen A. DesJardins. Joy graduated from Loretta Catholic High School in 1948 and went on to earn her RN degree from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hancock in 1952. She married Jack P. Willette, and they had five children of whom she was so proud. Joy had a career of over 30 years in nursing. She worked for War Memorial Hospital, LSSU Health Services, and finally retired from the State of Michigan Health Screening Services.

Joy enjoyed her family and friends and would start a conversation with anyone she met. She was active up to a couple of weeks before her death and went to exercise three times a week with her son, John. She loved her wine-time, dancing, shopping, and a good party. Joy enjoyed cooking, baking and canning. In her quiet time she sat knitting dishcloths or scarves and watched the Hallmark channel. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and attended regularly. Joy was a generous and kind person, and contributed to her Church and many charities. Everyone at the Avery Center has her dishcloths as do all her family, friends and everyone she met.

Joy is survived by five children and their spouses; John and Judy (Sullivan)

Willette, Judy Willette, Janet and Tim Chupka, Joyce and Robert Gingras, and Jackie and Stephen Clem. She had nine grandchildren; Todd Willette and Kevin Green, Megan and Ethan Chupka, Clark, Keith and Cole Gingras, and Dane and Riley Clem, as well as, three great grandchildren, Madi, Avery and Sullivan.

Joy is also survived by her special sister, Suzanne and her husband Mike Crowley and her sister-in-law Dolores Ewing, along with her many loved extended family members and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Helen DesJardins; her sister Bernadette Forrest; her first husband, Jack Willette; and her second husband, Dr. Cecil Baker.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday May 28, 2020 at 11:00am at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Michael Chenier officiating and Deacon Bill Piche assisting. Final Resting place will be Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Joseph's Catholic Church or Hospice of the EUP. The family would like to thank the doctors and staff at War Memorial Hospital and especially the ICU and second floor nurses who took such wonderful care of Joy in her last days. Also, a special thank-you to Fr. Sebastian who visited frequently, and brought peace and prayers for Joy's final journey to our Lord.

Tribute Wall



“ Joy Shirley (DesJardins) Willette

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Joy Shirley (DesJardins) Willette

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM

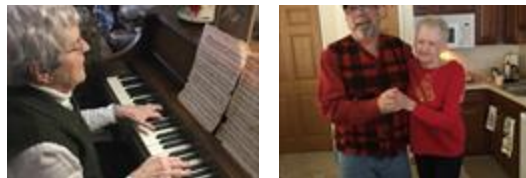


“ Joy Shirley (DesJardins) Willette

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ Aunt Joy was one of a kind! She had a great sense of humor and loved a party! She always made me feel special throughout my life. She cared very deeply for everyone in our family. A great cook in the French Tradition...will miss her brownies! Always enjoyed her visits with John after Friday fish fries at the legion. Attaching photos when Lana and I took her to visit Aunt Dolores at this last Christmas. Brought her a meat pie but she already had one made! Dolores played the piano and we danced!
We love you Joy!
Phil and Lana Patton



Phil and Lana Patton - May 27, 2020 at 10:53 AM

DS

“ Joy truly was a Joy! I met her through Coed Flowers and looked forward to her visits. She was so cute and amusing. My heart goes out to her family. With love and sympathy Danny Sarns

Danny Sarns - March 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I met Joy at the Fitness Center a few years ago, and was immediately engaged by her smile and friendliness and kind spirit. Seeing her when I walked in made the tedium of exercise less annoying when I could chat with Joy. It also turned out that we had another connection, as she had known my sister-in-law in her nursing career, and somehow that always made me feel like Joy and I were related. What a wonderful lady! Without a doubt, she will be missed much by everyone whose life she touched.

Celeste and Tom Spencer - March 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Joy. We knew her from the WMH Fitness Center. Joy was aptly named, as that is what she spread among those who knew her. She will be sadly missed, her smile, her courage, her joy. Rest well, dear lady.

Jim and Mary Barry - March 02, 2020 at 12:00 AM