



Judy LaFord

February 24, 1941 - June 30, 2020

Judy LaFord, age 79, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at her home after a long battle with ovarian cancer. Judy was born on February 24, 1941

She is survived by her husband: Jerry LaFord; children: Becky (Ely) Andary, Steve (Jackie) LaFord; grandchildren: Katie (Paul) Hauge, Ben (Erin) LaFord, and Dan (Alexis) LaFord; and great-grandchildren: Nora and Audrey Hauge, and Barrett and Elaina LaFord. Judy is also survived by her sisters: Mary Beth (Paul) Aikens, Cindy Roe, Bonnie Haminger, Bernie Mills, Kathy (Bob) Marchand, and Wendy (Otto) Fox.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents: George and Lillian (Green) Donnelly; a brother: Gary Donnelly; and a special sister and brother-in-law: Marilyn and Frank Wilson.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I am so sorry to read of Judy's passing and her illness she was living with. Back in the grade school days she and my sister Diane were connected at the hip almost-a tight friendship and although Diane never skated- she was in the arena as President of the Hiawatha Club with an avid interest in it all and I say Judy was her influence. Judy influenced many. Jerry--we go way, way back also- and family my deepest thoughts and prayers for you all as you go through the coming days adjusting to her absence. God be with you all. Hugs to you all, Marilyn

Marilyn Goeschel Mackie - July 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ We love you and thinking about you today. Buddy wanted to send you a note. Xoxx

Maddox Humfeld (Aikens/Mussatto) - July 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ God is Always Good. We don't understand how wonderful people like Aunt Judy has to go through and fight what she did. But in our sadness and hurt we miss where God has used her and her life and her fight to touch so many hearts and up lift them in who she is and the good fight she made. She showed many the Hope and Love that she had. The Hope and Love and fight we should have every day. Thank You Judy for that. Judy you have been such a blessing to me and my family to help me fight that fight of the cancer and losses that I experienced and has helped me be stronger. It has been difficult for me as like many I wished I could have fixed it, or done more but again God has a plan and you are a Wonderful part of that. I am so happy you are hurting no more and in the presence of Jesus and rejoicing with those that have gone before. As Dad always said if I don't see you down her I will see you up there. Jerry I am praying for you and the family for the Strength, Peace and Grace that God provides. I Love You Aunt Judy. I Love You Uncle Jerry. I am here if you need anything



Rusty and Nancy Wilson - July 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ How can we think of Judy and not think of skating? How can we think of skating and not think of Judy? Some of my (Karen's) favorite memories growing up were hunting season weekends when Jerry & my Dad were at the cabin and "us girls" (Judy, Becky, Doreen, & Karen) could go out to eat on Saturday after skating. The meal (and any time with Judy, really) was always full of laughter. When we remember Judy, we'll remember her smile, her warmth, her laugh, and her love of family.

We are so sorry for the pain Jerry, Becky, Steve, and the whole family are going through. Judy will never be forgotten, she's made too big an impact on everyone she's ever met for that to happen.

All our love and prayers.

Doreen, Karen, Steve & Vicky

Karen & Doreen Gordon - July 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *When I see the Lake Superior sunset, I will always think of you Aunt Judy; So beautiful, loving, funny, selfless, and the best hugger! You were the best Aunt I could've asked for.*

As my coach in skating, you took off the Aunt hat and your stern, but loving teaching gave me confidence. You pushed me in competitions and squashed my nervousness on testing days.

As I grew up, you always loved me. Even in my bratty years! As I grew into adulthood and life got busy, you always kept up with me. As my family grew, you always asked for updates and pictures; Always commenting and keeping in touch on Facebook! Talking on the phone was great also but our Facebook messages were more frequent, and I loved them. Then the "C" word came. I remember Mom telling me and how I knew you'd fight hard.

Our trip home 3 years ago, you came to the cabin and beach to visit. You were tired but you still came. And I loved the time. You smiled so much! You loved the kids so much!

Two years ago, I was excited you were coming to the wedding in Colorado. But the "C" word took that trip away. With high elevation it wasn't a good idea. You would have loved it though! I was so thankful Becky came and brought your spirit.

Last year, I didn't realize, would be our last trip visiting together. You looked so great! I was happy! We had a big family meal and visited. It was our last hug too. I also remember you being mad because I paid for your meal. Funny because you gave me countless hours of teaching for free and your meal was \$10! Ha! This picture was the sunset from that night. I will cherish it and remember our last visit together. You always made time to visit.

This year, our trip to visit you was stolen by Covid-19. Although we've remained healthy, we feared to travel with a baby and the potential of bringing sickness. Especially to you. I wanted Nola to

meet you so much! She would've made you smile that big, loving smile you have. She is a character and you would have laughed so hard. I'm mad I didn't take the chance to fly home and get one last hug. Looking back, the virus risks would have been worth it. But there's no looking back. You taught me that. Spend time with the people you love now. I'm glad we talked, and you got to see pictures/videos of us. Hearing you say "I love Yas" one last time. Although more time with you was our wish, knowing your pain is gone and you can rest peacefully makes my sad heart a little stronger. I'll always love you and speak of you often. Time for you to relax now. Please watch over us all. Until we see each other again, I love ya Aunt Judy!

Tara (Aikens) Mussatto - July 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *AUNT JUDY, I have only seen you a few times in the last few years but I cherished the times that we spent. Even though you were hurting from cancer, you are in a better place now! I wish we could have spent a lot more time with you because you were an amazing person! LOVE, Talia Clementine*

Talia Humfeld (Daughter of Tara (Aikens) Mussatto) - July 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *To Judy's family,
I know this has been a long journey for all of you...May you feel God near as you trust your loved one to His loving care. May the memories you carry be sweet and bring joy to your hearts.*

Jane Kennedy - July 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Ms. Judy, you were Lexy's first skating coach and helped her to realize her love of skating. Thank you for that. You were also a heck of an example of a fighter. Rest easy sweet lady.
Love, Jennifer and Lexy



Jennifer - July 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ I have not had many people I would really consider as good of friends as was you and Jerry. Someone that I could talk to about just about anything. As I think back over the hundreds of cups of coffee we have had together over the years in your kitchen talking about so many different things, I just can't help but think how much I miss these discussions and your company. It meant so much to me, even though we many times didn't agree, I would tease you with some off the wall comment just to buzz you up, and you would just throw up your hand up like what were you going to do with me. But trust me, I always listened to you.



I wish I would have told you how important you were to me and that I had great respect for you and your opinions. I think your a very special person and I'm sure there are many, many people that you taught and consoled over the years that feel the same way. You are the sister I never had. You should rightfully feel very proud of what you accomplished in your life. I have and will always remember you with love and affection. As I think of all the good times we have had, I can't help but smile as I know God is preparing a very special place for you as one of his angles. Your Friend, Frank Roe

Frank Roe - July 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Judy,

You are one of the best people I have ever known! You were so special to so many. You had nothing but kind words for everyone. The rink will never be the same.

I've heard it said that your legacy will be defined by those you have helped along the way. I pray that as we move forward, our actions clearly define your legacy with the importance and respect that you deserve. The lessons you've taught, the help you've given, and the love you've shown will continue to be represented by those of us whose lives were touched by you. I hope that one day we can look back and know that by following your example we were able to make you proud, honor your legacy, and have a positive impact on others.

Slip on your skates, tighten up your laces, and enjoy a skate with Joannie. Mrs. Miller will play your music and blow the whistle when your session is over.

Prayers and thoughts are with your family during this difficult time.

Love you always!

Cory, Lori, Cody, Zach, & Kimmi



Lori Jodoin - July 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Katie was my college roommate and now lifelong friend. I met "Gram" a few times. What stuck out to me was her fun, spunky, warm personality. She welcomed me into the family right away. She will be missed but I am so happy that she is at home with the Lord.*

Johanna Thompson - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I will always have fond memories of "Grandma Ju Ju" from the ice rank to the school programs to Birch Point and beyond. Sending you thoughts of happier days as comfort during this difficult time.

Ken and Jenny Rogers - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ In loving memory of Katie's Gram. To witness the love these special souls shared was a joy to behold. We hope joyful memories guide healing during this time of loss. We pray for the whole family and those battling cancer as Gram did so courageously.

The Birnie Family - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Our condolences on the loss of your beautiful wife, mother and grandmother. We hope that you feel surrounded by much love as you remember Judy.
Janet & Wayne & family

Janet & Wayne Hauge - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ So sorry to here this sad news. You will be missed by many. Having you as Ericka's skating coach was great you taught her a lot had your ups and downs with her but you never gave up. We will miss you.

Dieanna - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ I haven't stopped praying for months for Aunt Judy and I will continue to pray for everyone hurting. I'm so sorry to have heard the news. She was such an amazing soul with the most beautiful heart. May she rest easy without pain any longer as an angel watching over everyone from heaven 🥺🥺🥺🥺

Nicole Roe - July 02, 2020 at 12:00 AM