



Lillian "Lil" (Cryderman) Holt

December 30, 1930 - January 19, 2026

Lillian "Lil" (Cryderman) Holt was born at the Cryderman family home in Dafter, Michigan on December 30, 1930. She used to remark that she was a tax exemption "just in time" for her family that year - a welcome thing during depression years. Lillian was the fourth of ten children born to Russell and Ursula Cryderman.

While there were many jobs to be done outside on the farm, Lil preferred the inside ones. She was responsible for bread baking every Saturday while her mom and dad went to run errands in town. At age 12, she started working for a neighboring family as a housecleaner. Perhaps that's where her love of tidiness originated – until the very end she enjoyed a spotless home!

Lil graduated as Valedictorian of Sault Area High School's class of 1949. She was an excellent student and that showed as she helped her six children with homework over the years! After graduation Lil worked for Sullivan, Veum, and Moorhead Attorneys as a legal assistant until her marriage to John "Jack" Holt in December of 1952. Jack and Lil met on a blind date arranged by a friend. When Lil was initially hesitant to go, her friend Ginny said, "well you don't have to marry him you know!". The rest was history; they were married for three days shy of sixty-one years. Jack served overseas in the United States Army for two years during their engagement, while Lil awaited his return. After their wedding, they moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Lil worked at

Quarles, Spense, and Quarles Attorneys. After the birth of their first child, they moved back to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to be closer to family.

Lil and Jack were quite a team. They were each other's cheerleaders through all of life's ups and downs. She was his constant companion during his health struggles before his death in December 2013. Lil and Jack held family in high regard. They often opened their home to family members that needed a place to live and were models of generosity. Once, on the Mackinac Island ferry ride home from a family wedding, they met a couple from Japan, Hiro and Shuko. Hiro and Shuko had never been to the Sault and as it was getting dark, Lil found out they needed a hotel for the night. Before even asking Jack, Lil invited them to their home for the night. They corresponded at Christmastime for many years.

Lil's faith has always been the most important thing in her life. She attended St. Joseph Parish and was a Eucharistic Minister (giving communion at church and bringing it to shut-ins) for many years. She served for many years with the local chapter of Right to Life. She also helped start a Rosary Group in 1976 that is still meeting today. If you had a need, you could be sure that Lil would pray for you! Lil's wish would be for each to experience the power of prayer.

Lil was an incredibly devoted mother and grandmother; she had a knack for making each and every member of her large family feel loved and cherished. When her children were young, she was nominated for "Homemaker of the Year" – and her children still wish she had won!

Lil is survived by six children, Jane (Dennis) Kennedy of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, John (Cheryl) Holt of Melbourne Beach, Florida, Fred (Laura) Holt of Louisville, Colorado, Joe (Karen) Holt of Traverse City, Michigan, Kathy (Dave) Perry of Melbourne Beach, FL, and Tom (Sue) Holt of Melbourne

Beach, FL; grandchildren, Kara (Chad) DeBord, Tony Kennedy, Laura (Jordan) Douglas, Mike (Mindy) Holt, Troy (Danielle) Holt, Scott (Chelsea) Holt, Tim Holt, Tom (Sue) Gilbert, and Fred (Tara) Holt Jr., Tori (Charles) Bloomer, Katie (Alex) Rushlow, Nick (Jen) Kujala, Kirstin (Keith) Nielson, Erik Kujala, David Perry, Emily Perry, and Drew (Nichole) Holt; and twenty-six great-grandchildren.

Lil was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; and nine siblings, Ethel Cottelit, Annie Goetz, Mary Cobb, Gertrude Lehigh, Russell Cryderman, Forrest Cryderman, Evelyn Cryderman, Theresa Cryderman, and Vallee Cryderman.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 606 E. 4th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, starting at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Right to Life of Michigan, P.O. Box 901, Grand Rapids, MI 49509, St. Joseph Parish, 606 East Fourth Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Upcoming Events

Memorial Gathering

JUL **23.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Sault Ste. Marie
4951 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-4951
fifh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Mass

JUL **24.** 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
606 E. 4th Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

HM

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of Lil's passing. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

We still vividly remember that day thirty-five years ago on the ferry from Mackinac Island when Jack and Lil first struck up a conversation with us . That evening, they both were kind enough to let us stay at their home, and the next morning, they even prepared breakfast for us before our early departure.

Their overwhelming kindness remains us most cherished memory from the four and a half years we lived in Michigan. Even after we returned to Japan, we looked forward to the Christmas cards we received every year even after Jack's passing; her messages were always so full of warmth and gentleness.

We feel truly blessed to have known Jack and Lil.

Thank you for including this memory in the obituary; it means a lot to us.

With deepest sympathy,

Hiro & Shuko Miyoshi

Hiro Miyoshi - March 29 at 01:50 AM

JK

*Thank you SO much for posting your tribute about mom! I hadn't checked the board in awhile and was SO pleased to hear from you. Mom and Dad enjoyed your friendship and getting Christmas updates each year. Thank you again for taking time to let us know you received my letter and heard of her passing. We will have a celebration of her life in July. Hold fast to the memories....
Lil's daughter Jane Kennedy*

Jane Kennedy - April 28 at 01:56 PM

MA

“ Condolences to the Holt family. I always remember Mrs. Holt as a very warm and caring person. I was so,pleasantly surprised to see her at my Mother’s funeral at St. Joseph’s church. She greeted me so lovingly. Martha Schneider

Martha - January 28 at 05:59 PM

JK

Thank you for sharing, Martha! Hope you are well!!

jane kennedy - January 29 at 07:45 AM

JW

“ Lil & Jack...fixtures of my childhood. Lil is truly a woman of humility who shined a light for so many of us. Blessed to know her and her family.

Judi Wolcott - January 25 at 02:47 PM

JK

Thank you, Judi. SO MANY memories we shared together!!

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:44 PM

JK

You were special to her, Judi. Thank you for all the mail you shared with her. We were blessed by your family as well.

jane kennedy - January 29 at 07:48 AM

HS

“ So many sweet memories of yesteryear. And lately when I visited with her at Melcalm. I was a friend of her sister Vallee. Love the Cryderman family. I resently moved back to the area and now live on Cryderman road. Helen Spring Smith

Helen Spring Smith - January 24 at 11:09 AM

JK

Thank you for visiting her, Helen.

jane kennedy - January 29 at 07:49 AM

DC

“*Aunt Lil.. . Memory moments linger, I recall her voice and energetic welcome smile, summer on the lawn at the rivers edge and a time we skated on its frozen skin.. . Recollections of the heart remain.. .*

"A river runs along its shore, as Love begun flows evermore"

Love and Prayers for the family and all blessed to have shared in her life..

-Daun Crozier and Family-

Daun Crozier - January 23 at 02:18 AM

JK

Thank you for your memories, Daun. I remember well skating on the river!

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:45 PM

MT

“*Condolences to the Holt family. I met Lil when Jack was in the hospital in Petoskey, we were roommates. They both left such a wonderful impression on me. They both are part of the greatest generation to ever live.*

Mark Tamlyn - January 22 at 07:49 PM

JK

Thank you, Mark. What a surprise. Hope you are doing well. (Daughter Jane)

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:47 PM

KC

“ Our Aunt Lil. We will never forget her positive and loving personality. So many great memories. We are so happy we were able to speak with her recently. Our thoughts are with you all.

Kevin & Diane Crozier - January 22 at 02:04 PM

JK

I am also grateful you had a memorable last conversation. Thank you for your thoughts....Be well!

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:46 PM

PC

“ Aunt Lil was such a positive and loving person. Remembering all of the family get togethers - especially at Christmas. We'll certainly miss her.

Paul & Debra Crozier - January 22 at 10:52 AM

JK

Thanks, Deb and Paul. We need to keep the Holt get togethers going!

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:47 PM

MB

“ Aunt Lil was a very special person who loved her family so much. I will miss her hugs and smile but know she is at peace with her savior.

MaryEllen Brocklehurst - January 21 at 07:41 PM

JK

Knowing she's out of pain and with the Lord brings comfort. She loved each of you...

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:48 PM

TC

“ So sad to hear of her passing. She was such a dear woman, genuine & kind. Our condolences to all the Holts.

Therese Curtis - January 21 at 11:01 AM

JK

Thank you, Therese!

Jane Kennedy - January 26 at 07:48 PM