



Mary Jean (Mills) Denker

June 28, 1937 - April 19, 2024

Mary Jean (Mills) Denker, age 86, beloved by all who knew her, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at her home in Brimley, Michigan, on April 19, 2024. She was born on June 28, 1937, in Brimley, to Robert and Verna (Wynn) Mills.

Mary was a devout member of her church and found solace and community in her faith. Embodying its values of compassion and service. She was a pillar of strength, kindness and touched the lives of many through her unwavering love and generosity. Mary found immense joy in attending Brimley basketball games, where her infectious enthusiasm and spirited cheers uplifted both players and fans alike. She also adored her time spent at Laker Hockey games, where she reveled in the excitement of the sport and the camaraderie of fellow fans. Her passion for baking and card games was renowned, and she eagerly welcomed all visitors to join her in a friendly round of cards while enjoying a plethora of yummy treats. She was known for being an avid cheater during these card games but would admittedly deny these claims. Mary cherished her time spent with family, creating memories that will forever live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind. She was completely devoted to her family, friends, and community, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Her selflessness, kindness, and unwavering love enriched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Mary was actively involved with the VFW auxiliary, dedicating her time to helping with Friday fish fries, the Brimley 4th of July Parade, and presenting the scholarship awards at Brimley schools where she was known for her warm smile and welcoming presence that made everyone feel loved. She and her husband will long be remembered through the Claude and Mary Denker Scholarship Fund at Lake Superior State University.

Mary is survived by her children, Marna Singleton, Bud (Melissa) Denker, Kevin (Karen) Denker; grandchildren, Richard (Nichole) Singleton, Jessica Singleton, Christian Denker, Cameron Denker; great-grandchildren, Mackenzie Singleton, Meghan Singleton, Mekenzie Brennan; and sister, Isabell (Richard) McKay.

Mary was preceded in death her husband, Claude; parents, Bob and Verna Mills; in-laws, Claude and Erma; and siblings, Harris Mills, Muriel McKiddie, June Olds, Mona Spinuzza, Catherine Wilcox, Bill Mills, and Lila Miller. Mary will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but her legacy of love, laughter, community, faith, and kindness will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her. The family is especially thankful for her longtime friend Darlene (Rudy) Hyvarinen, and cousins Ron and Teresa Mills for their unwavering companionship and love.

A Celebration of Mary's life will be held on April 24, 2024, from 10 AM – 11AM with funeral service to follow at Brimley Congregational Church, 6984 M-221, Brimley, MI 49715.

Resting place will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, Bruce Township, Michigan

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Mary's honor to the Brimley Congregational Church, 6984 M-221, Brimley, MI 49715, or the Brimley VFW Auxiliary, 8968 W. M-28 Brimley, MI 49715.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.
Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church
6984 M-221
Brimley, Michigan 49715
(906) 248-5716

Funeral Service

APR 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church
6984 M-221
Brimley, Michigan 49715
(906) 248-5716

Tribute Wall

JC

“ James C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

James C. - April 25, 2024 at 08:43 AM

B&

“ Bri &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Bri &. - April 24, 2024 at 11:54 AM

MS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sorrowful time. Mary will be deeply missed by us. We will miss her smile and a hug at the Laker's Hockey games and Senior Dinners. Madan and Karuna Saluja

Madan Saluja - April 23, 2024 at 08:21 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 23, 2024 at 05:41 PM

LO

“ Love, Patty, Greg, Sophia, Nick & Olivia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Love, Patty, Greg, Sophia, Nick & Olivia - April 23, 2024 at 05:41 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 23, 2024 at 03:58 PM

YJ

“ Your friends at Penske Jet planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Your friends at Penske Jet - April 23, 2024 at 03:58 PM

EW

“ Edward W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Edward W. - April 23, 2024 at 01:52 PM

TF

“ The Connell and Chain families purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



The Connell and Chain families - April 23, 2024 at 01:32 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 23, 2024 at 01:11 PM

LF

“ Letty Azar and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Letty Azar and Family - April 23, 2024 at 01:11 PM

ES

“ Eric Larson and the DDP Staff! purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Eric Larson and the DDP Staff! - April 23, 2024 at 01:01 PM

ES

“ Eric Larson and the DDP Staff! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Eric Larson and the DDP Staff! - April 23, 2024 at 01:01 PM

GT

“ Gigi and Matthew Trouve' purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Gigi and Matthew Trouve' - April 23, 2024 at 12:17 PM

GT

“ Gigi and Matthew Trouve' planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Gigi and Matthew Trouve' - April 23, 2024 at 12:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 23, 2024 at 11:42 AM

JB

“ JIM and Carol Brown purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



JIM and Carol Brown - April 22, 2024 at 09:51 PM

CF

“ Corky Mills family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Corky Mills family - April 22, 2024 at 07:28 PM

CF

“ Corky Mills family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Corky Mills family - April 22, 2024 at 07:28 PM

TC

“ Tony and Wendy Chiodo purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Tony and Wendy Chiodo - April 22, 2024 at 05:18 PM

RD

“ Mary was one of God's angels here on earth! Always kind, helpful and loving too all she met. We will miss her! Ron and Chris

Ron and Chris Daniels - April 22, 2024 at 04:32 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 22, 2024 at 04:29 PM

CM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you ~ We planted trees in your mom's honor and send your family strength during this sad time. Cindy G. (Geier) and Karen M. (McKinnon).



Cindy Geier and Karen McKinnon - April 22, 2024 at 01:02 PM

CG

“ Cindy G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Cindy G. - April 22, 2024 at 12:55 PM

BP

“ Brian and Lisa Penney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Brian and Lisa Penney - April 22, 2024 at 10:18 AM

BP

“ Brian and Lisa Penney purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Brian and Lisa Penney - April 22, 2024 at 10:18 AM

TT

“ The Detroit Grand Prix Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

The Detroit Grand Prix Team - April 22, 2024 at 10:14 AM

TT

“ The Detroit Grand Prix Team purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



The Detroit Grand Prix Team - April 22, 2024 at 10:14 AM

CW

“ Cindy Wells planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Cindy Wells - April 22, 2024 at 10:06 AM

CW

“ Cindy Wells purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Cindy Wells - April 22, 2024 at 10:06 AM

PC

“ Penske Corporation purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Penske Corporation - April 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

RW

“ Randy & Sherry Wyman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Randy & Sherry Wyman - April 21, 2024 at 05:48 PM

FF

“ Farrell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Farrell Family - April 21, 2024 at 11:08 AM

FF

“ Farrell Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Farrell Family - April 21, 2024 at 11:08 AM

SM

“ Steve mills planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

Steve mills - April 21, 2024 at 03:46 AM

SM

“ Steve mills purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



Steve mills - April 21, 2024 at 03:46 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



April 20, 2024 at 03:36 PM

JD

“ Jack and I will keep so many wonderful memories of Aunt Mary close to our hearts. She was an inspiration to those around her and her love was endless. So many card games, family dinners, visits with baked good and foods we shared with one another. Mary was always up for an adventure and we so enjoyed our time together. Aunt Mary surely will be missed. We take comfort in her strong faith and that she is with God in Heaven.
-Jack and Pat Dean

Jack and Pat Dean - April 19, 2024 at 09:06 PM

JN

“ So sorry to here of your lose. She was a gem

Joanne Nelson - April 19, 2024 at 08:03 PM

SF

“ SHEILA SIMPSON AND FAMILY purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.



SHEILA SIMPSON AND FAMILY - April 19, 2024 at 07:17 PM

SF

“ SHEILA SIMPSON AND FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean (Mills) Denker.

SHEILA SIMPSON AND FAMILY - April 19, 2024 at 07:17 PM

SS

“ *There are too many memories of dear aunt Mary to share. I have loved her off my life. She was one of my aunts that was always around when I was growing up always lots of fun lots of energy. I will miss her more than I can say Love, Sheila*

sheila simpson - April 19, 2024 at 05:42 PM