



Mary Lou Nancy Balasz

June 25, 1931 - August 9, 2020

ADRIAN- Mary Lou Balasz, age 89, of Adrian, Michigan passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Sunday, August 9th, 2020 after a brief illness. Mary Lou was born in Crystal Falls, Michigan to Reginald and Elsie Shogren on June 25th, 1931.

Mary Lou graduated from Bessemer High School in 1949. She was an avid Speedboys cheerleader during her years at the school. After high school Mary Lou joined four other Upper Peninsula young women as they enrolled in a three-year nursing program at Augustana Lutheran Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Mary Lou treasured her nursing school years and stayed in contact with classmates the rest of her life.

On June 6th, 1953, Mary Lou married her high school sweetheart, Eddy Balasz, after she finished nursing school and he returned from the Navy. They settled into married housing at Michigan State University as Eddy completed his degree on the G.I. Bill. After a brief stint back to the U.P., Eddy started work for AT&T.

Mary Lou and Eddy, along with daughter Jody, headed out to move to Massachusetts, Minnesota, Colorado and Chicago. Mary Lou gamely moved to each new city making friends at every stop. She also added son Jay in Massachusetts and son Jerry in Minnesota.

After moving around the country, Eddy and Mary Lou and their three children were ready to settle down. They moved to Adrian Michigan in 1968 where Eddy took a computer job with the Intermediate School District and Mary Lou resumed work as a nurse.

Mary Lou eventually settled into working for Drs. Keener, DeMotts, Schultz and Lentz at their family practice office. Mary Lou continued working for the office for over three decades. Her work at the office introduced her to many families in the Adrian area.

Eddy and Mary Lou enjoyed golf and everything Michigan State. They golfed together and in separate leagues, at Woodlawn golf course. For many years they held MSU football season tickets, spending many a fall Saturday tailgating with fellow Spartans.

When Mary Lou retired, she spent her time with her Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church family, quilting friends and bridge partners. She also enjoyed being an usher at the Croswell Opera house in downtown Adrian.

To know Mary Lou, was to know her love for her children and grandchildren. She earned the coveted title of Nonnie with the birth of her first grandchild Sam in 1990. She went on to enjoy Eric, Jane, Sarah, Grace and Jack. Each one of her grandchildren enjoyed a deep relationship with both their Nonnie and Papa (Eddy).

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, husband Eddy and many relatives and dear friends. She will be deeply missed by her daughter Jody Sydow and her son Eric Sydow, son Jay (Kris) and children Sam (Jade), Jane and Grace, and son Jerry and children Sarah and Jack.

A private memorial celebration for Mary Lou will take place on Saturday, August 15th, 2020 at 1 p.m. at Wagley Funeral home with Pastor Denise Benjamin officiating. A live streaming of the service will be accessible from Mary Lou's tribute wall on [www. WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com) where a link to view the recording will be available for 90 days. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Mary Lou's name to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church or Hospice of Lenawee County. Online condolences and memories can be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Mary Lou Nancy Balasz*



Wagley Funeral Home - August 12, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ *Mary Lou Nancy Balasz*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *My condolences to Jay and Jerry and the whole Balasz family. A beautiful obituary; you have done your mother proud. Take care of each other.*

Allison Dutoit - August 21, 2020 at 03:43 PM

SP

“ Hello Balasz Family,

My father and mother, John and Pat Backman, had many fond memories of Mary Lou and Eddy. Of course, dad knew both of them because he too was from Bessemer and a Speed Boy. I'm sure your mom was cheering the boys on the sideline! I know Slomo and my Uncle Gary stood up at my parents' wedding, but I wonder if my dad stood up at your parents'? You've got the pictures, I'm sure. It's great that your parents landed in Adrian, probably because dad worked for the school system, as well as, Mr. Heikenen (sp?) who was another Upper. As all true Uppers they loved to play cards, games, golf and eat pasties. I wish Dad would have lived longer so they could have had more good times together.

I recall your mom from the doctor's office. I worked there during my senior year as a co-op student because I was thinking about going into nursing. Mary Lou was great to work with! She was a wonderful role-model, hard-working, and dedicated to her patients. I remember she always wore those support hose for her veins because she was on her feet all day long. I, too, have varicose veins, but only wore the hose when I was pregnant. They drove me crazy!

Thank you for sharing her service via Live Stream today. Mom and I watched it. It was great to hear about her continued service at Christ Redeemer. Mom made a donation in memory of Mary Lou to the church. We have so many memories of the church potlucks, Pastor Hokenson, confirmation, etc.

Take care of yourselves! We will keep you in our prayers as you transition to a new way of life with Mary Lou in Heaven.

*Love,
Pat, Scott, Michael and Stacey*

Stacey J Peets - August 15, 2020 at 04:28 PM

NG

“ *Dear Balasz Family,
Mary Lou was a very kind and caring person full of energy and life. Being a part of the church family with her meant a lot to us. She was very inspirational and giving in her faith. We will always remember her infectious smile and laugh. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. With Love, Roy and Nancy Gonzalez*

Nancy Gonzalez - August 15, 2020 at 02:00 PM

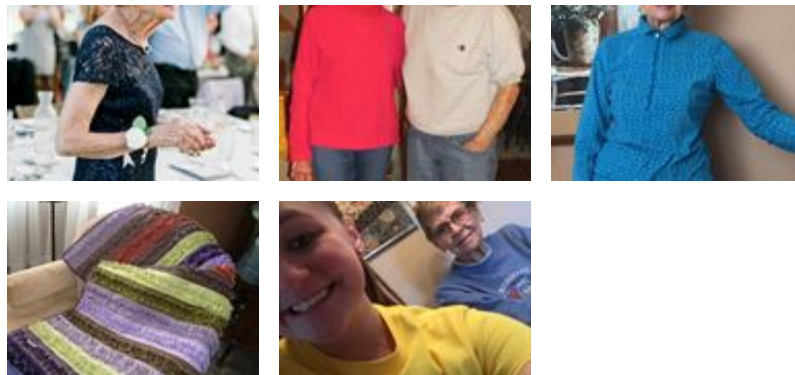
KT

“ *I have many memories of Mary Lou over the 40 years I knew her. She was a great role model in many ways, especially her ability to stay active helping with church activities and also keeping up with her quilting. We will miss her! Kathy & Randy Tripp*

Kathy Tripp - August 15, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ *82 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Wagley Funeral Home - August 14, 2020 at 02:47 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Nancy Balasz.*



August 14, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ *Our thoughts are with the Balasz family. We will always remember Mary Lou as a kind and generous lady, with an infectious smile. And we will dearly miss her. The Kinsey Family*

Michelle Kinsey - August 13, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ *When I moved to Adrian from Chicago I was fortunate to meet MaryLou when I was asked to join their quilt group. I sat next to her and her smile and laugh was contagious. I remember we had a quilt retreat in July and we decided to have Christmas in July we has so much fun. Rest In Peace my friend and my quilting sister*



marge coneset - August 12, 2020 at 04:28 PM

RY

“ I had the pleasure to work with (for) Mary Lou at Dr Keener, Shultz, and DeMots office and later Lentz, for many years. she was the go to person that held it together for us all. Any problem, “go ask MaryLou”. She was also my mentor that gave me confidence to do my work with the doctors. I remember MaryLou In the evening time, After working at office all day, she would walk all over town getting her exercise and socializing. I think she must have known everyone in town, and such a tribute that everyone in town knew and loved MaryLou. So very glad that she kept all of us office workers in mind when she came up with the idea to have a reunion 2 years ago. We had fun organizing the party with her and reminiscing of earlier years. She is a sweet lady with a big heart and I will miss her.
Regina Young



Regina Young - August 12, 2020 at 03:40 PM

SB

If you are able could you please text or email these photos to me. 517-366-9513 or Sarah.balasz@gmail.com thank you!

Sarah Balasz - August 14, 2020 at 12:00 PM

TG

Balasz family, Carolyn and I send our condolences. Your mother did a lot for this community and I was told she was a pillar in her church. She always had a smile on her face as mentioned on other posts, and I loved talking with her when we crossed paths. Rest in Peace Mrs. Balasz.

Tony Gonzalez

Tony Gonzalez - August 15, 2020 at 07:23 AM

LC

“ I met Mary Lou when it was decided to form a Friends of the Adrian Library. We worked together with others to form the group. She was a tremendous help in our book sales, and could outwork people younger than herself. Her family should be very proud of her accomplishments!

*Lois Nearhood Curtis
Past President Friends of the Adrian(District) Library.*

Lois N. Curtis - August 12, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Nancy Balasz.



August 12, 2020 at 10:24 AM

JL

“ My condolences to Jerry, Jay & Jody. Mrs. Balasz was one of the sweetest woman I gave ever met. Always a smile on her face whether it was at the house in the early days or when we crossed paths later in life at the grocery. God bless you Mrs. Balasz.

jeff lewin - August 11, 2020 at 06:33 PM

LR

“ Thinking of your family at this time of loss. One of the times I spent an afternoon with Mary was when Sarah was learning to drive and she drove to cottage at lake. Nice day talking about what else grandchildren. Like so many we knew her from the doctor office. Such a caring person.

Linda Rice

linda Rice - August 11, 2020 at 05:32 PM

KC

“ To know her was to love her! I have met very few women that had as much spunk as she did! She was out "mother figure" at the doctor's office, helping many of us through the trials of life and celebrating with us on happy occasions. I am so glad that she does headed a reunion of past and present employees of the doctor's recently. We had fun planning it and did a lot of reminiscing and laughing! Rest in peace Mary Lou. Now you can dance again with the love of your life. We will miss you. Until we meet again!
Kathy Emerson Coscarelli

Kathy Coscarelli - August 11, 2020 at 05:04 PM

MM

“ I first met Mary Lou when she was the nurse in the Doctor's office and she was very professional. Then enjoyed playing bridge with her for many years. She will be greatly missed.

Mitsy Mentzer - August 11, 2020 at 12:42 PM