



Claire Beechler

June 10, 2019

Claire (Clara Mae) Beechler (née Morey) passed away suddenly on Monday, June 10, 2019 at her home in Venice, Florida. Claire was born in Lansing, Michigan on September 27, 1927 to Glenn and Anna Morey. Her family moved to Charlotte, Michigan when she was 5 where she attended Charlotte Public Schools and graduated from Charlotte High School in 1945. During high school she worked as a "popcorn girl" at the Eaton Theatre and met the love of her life, Dick Beechler, whose family owned several theatres. Claire married Dick on August 19, 1949 and enjoyed 52 years of marriage.

Claire attended the University of Michigan and graduated with a teaching degree in Spanish and English. She would go on to teach both subjects for many years. She developed a love for language and became a champion for good grammar. Claire taught for 30 years at Eaton Rapids High School and inspired many a student to love the Spanish language. She took many students on trips to Mexico and Spain and always required her classes to learn the culture by singing, eating and cooking.

Claire and Dick had a lifelong love of the movies. However, due to changing times, they converted their Eaton Rapids business, The Rapids Theatre, to a new adventure: The Rapids Bowl. Claire learned to bowl along with the entire family but her real loves were reading, music, knitting and politics. In later years she was an APEX consultant in digital curriculum for the Eaton Intermediate School District.

Claire and Dick traveled North America in their Airstream and participated in humanitarian trips to Mexico and Belize. Claire always loved to write and capture the trip by summarizing the events in a "published" format for family and friends. This is a gift we still have today of her enduring love for travel and adventure.

Claire lived life to the fullest and was unfailingly positive and kind. She loved her faith and continued to always be a support for many. She never wavered from her desire to participate in everything and her incredible energy and zest enlivened us all. Claire loved her coffee breaks in the mid-afternoon and taught us how to pause and enjoy the day.

Claire is survived by her four children: Amy (Paul) Wolbert, Greg (Camille Vickers) Beechler, Betsy (John) King, and David (Renee) Beechler. She also leaves eight grandchildren: Jack (Courtney) King, Juliette (Mitch) McAvoy, Frank (Courtney) King, Michael King, Laura (Joe) Olwig, Ellen Wolbert, Lexie Beechler and Rick Beechler, as well

as three great-grandchildren: Lincoln King, Brendan McAvoy and Henry Olwig. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Dick Beechler and her second husband, Shearman Fairbank.

A celebration of Claire's life will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2 pm at Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary Street, Charlotte, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Rapids High School, 912 Greyhound Drive, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, Attention: Beechler Memorial.

Events

JUN **Memorial Service** 02:00PM
22

Pray Funeral Home

401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

Comments



“ Mrs. Beechler was my favorite teacher at Eaton Rapids. I have thought of her kindness and laughter often through out the past years. She was a teacher, mentor and friend to me. I am very sorry for your loss.

Coreen (Bellows) Strzalka - June 22, 2019 at 01:39 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Claire Beechler.



June 21, 2019 at 12:52 PM



“ Mrs. Beechler was always a happy and kind teacher. She was also a good listener and mentor to all her students....and tons of fun! One of those nice people you remember all your life.

Leslie Long - June 21, 2019 at 12:13 PM



“ Mrs. Beechler was my Spanish teacher back in 1976/77. She was a great teacher; both in Literature as well as Spanish. She would push you and make you engaged. We need teachers like her today. Mostly she CARED.
Former student

Julie Meyer - June 20, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ What a great teacher is was she will be missed by so many.



Vicki Reynolds - June 20, 2019 at 11:02 AM



“ Around 1987 Señora Beechler told me I should be a Spanish teacher. At the time I said “No way!”. She must have known something... I’ve been teaching Spanish for 27 years and can’t imagine doing anything else. She was and continues to be an inspiration. Que en paz descanse. -Patricia Torres

Pat Torres - June 19, 2019 at 11:38 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers for the family! The DePeels

Gwen depeel - June 19, 2019 at 08:14 AM