



Connie Bazaire

June 2, 1937 - May 9, 2024

Connie Louise Bazaire, of Parrish, Florida, formerly Charlotte, Michigan passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on May 9, 2024, at the age of 86. Connie was born on June 2, 1937, in Charlotte to Theodore and Atha Carter. Connie established lifelong roots in the Charlotte community, beginning with her role as a trusted employee and helper to her father, Theo, in his first grocery store (Carter's IGA) on Lansing Road. In her High School years (1951-1955), Connie loved playing the flute and piccolo in the Charlotte High School Marching Band, under the direction of Robert K. Powell. Mr. Powell had a long history with the music department at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY, and was instrumental in helping Connie receive a music scholarship to continue playing her beloved instruments in College for the Hilltoppers marching band. In 1957, Connie transferred to Michigan State University to study Nursing, and so began the "Spartan years," that would be some of the best of her life. While at Michigan State, Connie met her husband Keith during her last year on campus, and the two would later marry in June of 1961 at the First Congregational Church in Charlotte, Michigan. Connie and Keith were both avid Michigan State Football and Basketball fans, and would attend countless tailgates and games over the years. Connie's sons would joke with her about being the "President de Facto" of the Izz-zone (Southern Chapter).

Connie began her nursing career as an RN at Henry Ford Hospital, in Detroit

Michigan, and enjoyed learning the hands-on practice of nursing while she was there. After marrying Keith, Connie would join him in Columbus Ohio, at Ohio State University, where he was obtaining his Master's Degree. Following OSU, the two would settle in Midland, Michigan, where Keith began working for Dow Chemical. Keith and Connie would eventually move back to Charlotte in 1969, and Connie would continue her Nursing career at Hayes Green Beach Hospital. Ultimately, Connie would finish her career as a Hospital Administrator, as the Director of Nurses at Hayes Green Beach, retiring from that position in 1985. Connie loved being a part of the Charlotte community, and over the years would become a member of many volunteer organizations, and groups. Women's Club of Charlotte, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mobile Meals, as well as a contributor to the ongoing donor funding for Hayes Green Beach Hospital.

Connie, alongside Keith would enjoy many years of traveling with their life-long friends, Larry and Sonnie Cody of Charlotte. The Bazaire's and Cody's would spend many wonderful years traveling to Maui, Hawaii, and built a lifetime of memories on the Island. Inspired by Keith's private pilot flying lessons, Connie would join him in the process of obtaining her own pilot's license shortly after Keith earned his "wings" in 1988.

Later in life, after her three sons began their own journeys, she would rediscover her love for playing cards (most notably Bridge). She cherished her time with the bridge club that would gather at Evelyn Bay Coffee shop in downtown Charlotte.

Throughout the years, Connie enjoyed giving back to the community of Charlotte, her time spent with her children and grandchildren, nurturing local friendships, and staying involved at her church and hospital. Connie will be missed by many. She had a great sense of humor, a giving nature, and tremendous strength as a mother of three boys.

Connie is survived by her eldest son Jeffrey, son Kevin, and son Michael (Erron Sparks); grandchildren, Allison Bazaire (Bill), Carter Bazaire (Lincy), Ty Pion (Kristin), Brooke Miller (Daniel); great-grandchild Hazel. Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Keith; father, Theo; mother, Atha; sister, Carol Carter (Gray); father-in-law, Henry Bazaire; and mother-in-law, Wilma Bazaire.

Family and friends are encouraged to support Connie's family by sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com/>>. Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home Gardens in Charlotte for Connie and her husband Keith. A Graveside service is scheduled for Friday, July 26, 11:00 a.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **25.** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home Gardens
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Graveside

JUL **26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Connie Bazaire



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 23, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ Libby Jawish & Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Connie Bazaire.



Libby Jawish & Family - July 24, 2024 at 01:28 PM



“ My mother Dolores Fellem worked for Keith, and this how I knew Connie. She was a very nice woman. My condolences to her family.
Sincerely Cindy FellemKellem



Cindy Fellem-Kelley - May 17, 2024 at 08:48 PM

SJ

“ Sorry to see the recent passing of both Connie and Keith Bazaire, such integral members of the Charlotte community for so long. They did so much for the entire community through their volunteerism and donations, much of it unrecognized. Carter's could be relied upon to support any worthy community organization and they did so wholeheartedly and frequently. Keith and Connie will be deeply missed, but their generosity and efforts to make Charlotte the best it could be will live on.

Susan Joostberns - May 16, 2024 at 07:48 PM

MC

“ Mickey, Kevin, Jeff... My heart is broken for your family. Another treasured Charlotte community member. I will remember your mom's genuine and loving smile! She made everyone around her feel special! She was so proud to be Theo and Atha's daughter and to be part of the Carter's IGA legacy. One of a kind... prayers and hugs to all.

Monique Colizzi - May 13, 2024 at 06:20 PM

MB

Mo. Thank you for the kind words about my mom. She was one of a kind, and you nailed it on the head, she was proud of her community, and the role that her mom and dad played in it. Mom understood the legacy that was left to her, and she put in the work to continue it when it was her turn.

Michael Bazaire - May 13, 2024 at 08:44 PM

CM

Sorry, I just heard of the passing of both your parents. Connie was the sweetest person. Loved living across the street from your family. Seems like ages ago but it was fun growing up with you all as neighbors.

Cindy Mohre - July 24, 2024 at 09:18 PM