



Esther Mae Dunham

September 4, 1928 - October 24, 2022

Esther Mae Dunham, 94, of Vermontville, died Monday, October 24, 2022 in Grand Rapids. Esther lived a full life dedicated to the love and care of both her family and her community. Her "Jill of all Trades" nature ingrained her as an important part of many organizations and causes throughout the region. Esther was born on September 4, 1928 in Northville, MI, the daughter of George Washington and Mary Pauline (Osborne) Stanford. She graduated from Northville High School before marrying the love of her life, Frank Dunham. Upon Frank's return from World War II, the two purchased a herd of dairy cows and moved to Vermontville, where they would raise their five children. As the children grew, Esther took on many careers throughout her life. After milking cows in the early morning, she would go into service as a nurse's aide at the hospital, and years later put on the latest fashions and go to work at Knapp's department store. Soon after, she earned her real estate license and started a new venture. Her longest career was as clerk at the 56 District Court in Eaton County, which lead her to retirement. All along the way, she was active in her children's lives, serving as a Cub Scout Den Mother and 4H Leader. She sang in the choir at Vermontville Congregational Church and served as Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Grand Ledge. She was an avid reader, and loved bowling and golfing, which she did into her 80s. She used her talents around the house, maintaining a meticulous garden and sewing wedding dresses for her children's weddings. She even served as Township Assessor for Vermontville Township and volunteered countless hours for the

American Lung Association and Eaton County Agricultural Society. Esther was a lifelong learner and her impression was felt far and wide. Her talents and love for all will be missed and cherished by her community and her family.

Esther is survived by her children, Frank "Skip" (Susan) Dunham, Deborah Granger, Michael Dunham, John (Rita) Dunham and Richard (Lesley) Dunham; 16 grandchildren, Frank (Brenda) Dunham II, Joseph Dunham, James Dunham, Christopher (Samantha) Dunham, Katie (Steve) Miller, Jeffrey (Jennifer) Granger, Karla Lilly (William Conroy), Lynda (Brandon) Baker, Michael Dunham, Tim (Yamilet) Dunham, Tony (Danielle) Dunham, Danielle Vallejo, Jonathan (Kristi) Dunham, Rebecca (Alexander) Casto, Meghann (Charlie) Jarvis, and Richard Dunham; 22 great-grandchildren, Macey, Oliver, Caspar, Theodore and Stanford Dunham, Kevin and Brooke Miller, Kyle Lilly and Kayla Bruce, Eleanor Baker, Jade Baker, Breana Grover, Timmy, Ethan, Philip, Oliver, David, Michael, Elaine, Anthony TJ, and George Dunham, and Harper and Cora Jarvis; sister, Janice Hamer; brother, Tommy Stanford; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Frank Dunham; son-in-law, Ron Granger; and sisters, Juanita Vradenburg, Jean Sawin, and Helen Pollick.

Friends are encouraged to support Esther's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Memorial Service will take place at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Visitation will take be just prior to the service from 10-11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Eaton County 4H Agricultural Society and the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Esther's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). The family is in

the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

10911 Vermontville Hwy
Vermontville, MI 49096

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial Service

NOV 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Esther Mae Dunham*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 12, 2022 at 09:42 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Esther Mae Dunham*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 09, 2022 at 03:23 PM

MO

“ *Dec. 11... I just found out about Esther's passing. I stopped by just before her passing and had a good conversation remembering my mom, Fritzi Converse. Talking about good old times and how we (mom and I (sometimes)) enjoying spending the holidays with her, Frank and family. She spoke of missing the ability to do all the things she used to do. She amazed me and will be missed. Thought and prayers for your loss.*

Michelle O'Bryant - December 11, 2022 at 05:41 PM

RD

“ 60th Wedding Anniversary.



Rita Dunham - November 11, 2022 at 05:20 PM

HD

Helen and I planned on attending the service for Esther, we however came down with the covid virus and are in quarantine. I know that Esther always thought of Helen as part of the family. Our most sincere and deepest condolences go out to all the family. You will be in our prayers. Patrick & Helen Diamond

Helen Diamond - November 12, 2022 at 10:51 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Esther Mae Dunham.



November 10, 2022 at 12:33 PM

RD

“ 2001 Annual Family trip , Daytona Beach .



Rita Dunham - November 09, 2022 at 04:54 PM

PC

“ Dale and I send our prayers of comfort to the family, Dale always speaks of what a nice lady she was and a great part of his growing up. So sorry for your loss.
Dale and Penny Carpenter

PENNY CARPENTER - November 09, 2022 at 03:42 PM



“ 56 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 09, 2022 at 03:24 PM

RD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rita Dunham - November 08, 2022 at 09:46 AM

RD

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Rita Dunham - November 08, 2022 at 09:36 AM

RS

“ Frank and Sue and family..my sympathy to you in the loss of your mother.. Renee Stockham

Renee L Stockham - November 08, 2022 at 09:35 AM

S(

“ Sonia Diaz (Vallejo) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Esther Mae Dunham.



Sonia Diaz (Vallejo) - November 07, 2022 at 07:36 AM

RD

“ I met Esther when she was working at the Grand Ledge office for the District Court. I was with the Eaton County Sheriff Department and periodically delivered court related paperwork to her as well as occasionally testifying before the magistrate. Esther always had a smile when she welcomed me and we had many nice chats. She even gave me a Friendship cake starter which made a very delicious cake. I'm sure she had many challenges while working that job but she never showed it. She was a true gem.

Richard Deer - November 06, 2022 at 05:56 PM

TW

“ One of the nicest Ladies I’ve ever met. I always enjoyed listening to all the family stories when all the sisters were together. I know she was loved very much and I know she will be missed.

Tom Wall - November 06, 2022 at 05:15 PM

LD

“ A wonderful mother in law, mother, sister, grandmother. She is everything to everyone and there is no end when we have memories. It her turn now to live again with Frank. Les xx



Lesley Dunham - November 06, 2022 at 04:30 PM

TR

“ Deb and family, so sorry for your loss.
Tom and Cindy Raymond

Tom Raymond - October 28, 2022 at 07:56 PM

CT

One of the most sweet, caring people I ever knew. I will miss her very very much. Charlene

Charlene Thaxton - October 28, 2022 at 11:27 PM

PD

What a very sweet lady she was, Helen knew her better than I. Our most sincere condolences. You will be in our prayers.
Pat and Helen Diamond

patrick diamond - October 31, 2022 at 04:56 PM

DH

Our thoughts and prayers to all of the Dunham family, sincerly Brinda and Dave Hawkins

David L Hawkins - October 31, 2022 at 07:30 PM

BJ

*Skip, Sue and family,
So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.*

Beth and Kevin Jones - November 05, 2022 at 02:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 28, 2022 at 04:15 PM