



Jane Merrifield-Gidner

May 29, 1947 - July 18, 2020

Jane Leigh Merrifield-Gidner, 73, of Charlotte, died peacefully on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at her home surrounded by family. She was born as Janet Roberta Williams on May 29, 1947 in Charlotte, the child of Jacob and Maxine Williams. At the age of four, she and her brother, Richard, were adopted by John Rex and Fanny Minnetta (Dennis) Gidner, and her name changed to Jane Leigh Gidner. The Gidner's operated a working farm, and Jane grew up working hard with her family, and developed a deep respect for the 4H program. She attended Potterville High Schools until rezoning moved her to Charlotte Schools, where she graduated in 1966. In her younger years, before children, she worked as a certified nurses aid, and in fact cared for her parents for many years. Once her children arrived, she took an active role with their studies and interests, including volunteering with the 4H program and Campfire. In her spare time, she loved traveling and a good hot tub. Many will remember her for her 18 years at McDonald's in Potterville, where she served as the lobby lady and enjoyed greeting and visiting with her many friends in the community. She was a member of two chapters of the Red Hat Society, and also enjoyed following the Senior Center dancing circuit.

Since a child, Jane lived a deeply Faith-filled life and was a member of New Hope Community Church in Charlotte. Above all, she loved her family and her children and grandchildren. In fact, after her debilitating stroke, she spent the last 18 months of her life under the care of her daughter, Martha, at the family home lovingly referred to as the commune. She also received constant

support from her countless dear friends and family.

Jane is survived by her children, Martha (Terry) Bryant, John Merrifield, Jack (Benita) Merrifield; grandchildren, Steven Bryant, Michael Bryant, Hunter Merrifield, Angel Merrifield, Arianna Beedy, and their mother, Tara Ankney; her foster children, Tara Siler, Sean Brady, and Troy Brady; siblings, William, Susan, Mary, Marsha, Marvin, Cheryl, and Jake; many nieces and nephews; and several very dear friends. She was predeceased by her first love and spouse of 22 years, Phillip Merrifield; her grandson, Joshua Bryant; her birth and adopted parents; and her siblings, Richard, Michael, John, Geri, Judy, and James.

Friends are encouraged to support Jane's family by attending a tented visitation at Pray Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., followed by the service at 2 p.m. with Pastors Victor Williams and Chuck Jenson officiating. In keeping with Jane's wishes, the family invites any of Jane's Red Hat Sisters to come dressed in their regalia. Services will conclude with interment at Maple Hill Cemetery. In keeping with current social distancing requirements, there will be no public reception following. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Ronald McDonald House. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Jane on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Ceremony

JUL **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Jane Merrifield-Gidner



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 22, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Jane Merrifield-Gidner



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 21, 2020 at 08:08 PM

DG

“ I am so sorry to hear this, Jane and I went way back and shared a few fun times when we were young... Condolences to her family.

Donis Grove - July 30, 2020 at 10:59 PM

PH

“ Martha I am so sorry for your loss. I pray God will keep you in his arms during this awful time. Phyllis B.

phyllis - July 21, 2020 at 10:15 PM



“ 55 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 21, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ *Donna Bishop sent a virtual gift in memory of Jane Merrifield-Gidner*



Donna Bishop - July 21, 2020 at 05:33 PM

TS

“ It is impossible to pick just one memory from 46 years worth. Jane became a mother to me in 1975 when she and Phil fostered Troy, Sean and myself. A bond was formed that would carry us thru weddings, graduations, births, deaths, holidays, vacations and visits. I have such wonderful memories from vacations to Hilton Head, Washington, D.C., Gatlinburg, TN and Greer, S.C. You could always be sure that our visits always included a trip to the Goodwill and a hot fudge cake from Big Boys - if there was one close. And boy did she like to dance. I often wondered if anybody was able to purchase clothing in a purple shade, because if you every looked at her clothes racks and closets, she had every shade of it. There are so many wonderful and amazing memories that I have with Jane and am forever grateful for them. I will miss her everyday, but I am at peace knowing that she has gone to be with our Father in Heaven to dance with the angels. Love you Mom.

Tara Siler - July 19, 2020 at 10:41 AM

RA

“ i have many memories with Jane but i think my favorite memory is of when she took myself and Martha, John and Jack to Hell, MI we rode in the "banana boat" with the top down. We had a blast that day! Rest in Heaven Jane you will be missed by many.

Rachel - July 18, 2020 at 10:24 PM