



Joyce Jean Mitchell

July 28, 1930 - May 14, 2011

Joyce Jean (Stapelman) Mitchell, 80, of Charlotte, MI, died Saturday, May 14, 2011. Mrs. Mitchell was born July 28, 1930 in Lansing, MI, the daughter of Henry Jacob and Mary Ann (Schrauben) Stapelman. Joyce is known for her gorgeous hand stitched quilts, her hand-embroidered Baptismal shawls made for infants at St. Mary's, and the special hand knit items made for family and friends. She dedicated many years of her time to Meals on Wheels and served as a volunteer for Eaton Community Hospice. She enjoyed her Wednesday morning knitting group at Evelyn Bay in Charlotte where she developed many close friendships. Joyce was also a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte. She is survived by her daughter Gail (Randy) Williams; grandchildren Charlie Williams, Shelby Williams, and Ethan Williams; brothers Richard Stapelman, Robert (Sondra) Stapelman and Mark (Penny) Stapelman; sister-in-law Anne (Butch) Netterfield; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Delmonte in 1996; sons David in 1990 and Scott in 1980. A funeral mass will be held at 11:00 AM Wednesday, May 18, 2011 with Rev. Fr. Francis Mossholder officiating. Visitation will be at Pray Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 6-9 PM with a Rosary at 6 PM. If desired memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Hospice or the Eaton County Humane Society. Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce Jean Mitchell*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *It's hard to believe that Aunt Joyce won't be at the next family Weenie Roast, a tradition that she and Uncle Del began so many years ago. We need to make sure we keep the tradition alive to honor their memory. When autumn comes and there's a nip in the air, we'll gather round the campfire and have a toast to Aunt Joyce. We'll miss her. Love, Laura & Dan*

Dan & Laura Mandernack - May 22, 2011 at 11:48 AM

MS

“ *I met Joyce while volunteering at the Hospice House. She was a super lady !! I'm glad I had the pleasure of knowing her. Prayers for the whole family. Mary Standley*

Mary Standley - May 19, 2011 at 11:31 AM

JH

“ *What a great lady...she quilted many quilts for me...they turned out so beautiful. this past week I had her on my mind several times and very surprised she had passed on.*

jeanne hudson - May 18, 2011 at 08:07 PM

AL

“ I only knew Joyce through the Wednesday Knitting group at Evelyn Bay. Although there are many decades between us i always enjoyed our time together. She was a very sweet lady and she will be missed around the table.

Amanda Lipsey - May 18, 2011 at 08:04 PM

MS

“ Our thoughts are with Gail, her family and the extended family and friends. My youngest daughter was blessed with one of Aunt Joyce's meticulous sewn quilts. The customization and quality it's handiwork will always be admired as work of art in this modern urban environment. It will also serve as legacy item to share some snapshots about this extraordinary woman. Starting her married life as hard working farmer's wife, mother of three high energy and sometimes rampageous kids, she consistently exhibited a firm but positive managerial style. My cousins knew their chores and how to spread the workload with a visiting cousin. Aunt Joyce taught me how carefully she tracked her hens egg production each day and tied drops to us chasing the chickens around. She demonstrated the candling effort she must take to maintain quality control of what she delivered to her network in Charlotte. Once, she helped move her folks to Lake George. After all the furniture and boxes were unloaded, the adults considered doing the unpacking the next day. Aunt Joyce lead the charge to get those boxes unpacked into the late evening so that the her parents could continue their new life on a lake the next morning. She only regretted not bringing a toothbrush when it was realized she would not be returning home until the next morning with this decision. By my next visit she and Uncle Del had expanded their employment in Charlotte. Working at a bank, she had the opportunity to take her rest breaks at her parents new residence on Pearl Street. I wondered why she looked so pooped during those breaks, but as I gained some years I learned how tiring standing at a bank window can be. Now days, it is rare to see a banker not sitting in a chair or on a stool. Despite suffering the most heart breaking pain a parent can experience not once but twice and then the loss of Del so close to retirement, her enthusiasm remained contagious. While it may have been faith base, it just as well may have been her inner strength. The quilt will serve to remind my daughter the peacefulness that hard work, sacrifice and spiritual faith can bring to her life as exemplified by her Grandaunt Joyce. She has earned her better place.

Mike, Olivia and Rebecca Stapelman - May 17, 2011 at 03:27 PM

MW

“ Gail and Randy, so sorry to hear about your loss. Rest in peace Aunt Joyce. Nia, almost four years later, is still using the beautiful afghan you made for her when she was born!

Matthew Wright - May 17, 2011 at 03:20 PM

JH

“ Hi Gail and family Sorry about the loss of your Mom! I didn't know her but by reading the other notes she sounds like an awesome lady. John

JOHN HOTCHKISS - May 17, 2011 at 02:42 PM

N)

“ Gail Randy, Charlie-Shelby & Ethan, so sad to hear of the passing of our Neighbor, your Mom and Mother-in-law and Grandma, She will be sadly missed, Had talked to her a few months ago about her completing a quilt for me, Said after she go to feeling a little better, fighting a cold, I didn't know that it had gotten worse, She was gonna show me how to run the Quilting machine. I will truly miss spending the day with her, Talking Quilt Talk and comparing notes, If there is any thing we can do please feel free to let us know, Merlin (Michael) and Alana Root. Truly a Quilting Bee Friend

Neighbors- Merlin (Mike & Alana Root) - May 17, 2011 at 01:47 PM

MP

“ Aunt Joyce was always kind to us, and we enjoyed her company whenever we were together. We will always treasure a beautiful handmade quilt that she made for Barrett when he was born. Experienced breathtaking Alaska on a memorable weeklong cruise when Joyce, Richard & Edy traveled with our family. She was Tim's Godmother. Looked forward to keeping in touch with her with cards at Christmastime. Peace to you, Aunt Joyce. Tim, Melanie, Barrett and Mitchell

Melanie Pang - May 17, 2011 at 12:30 PM

KT

“ I am so sad. Joyce and I became good friends when I owned The Yarn Garden in Charlotte. We had a wonderful visit in September 2010, when I saw her at the Eaton Hospice House. We reminisced about old times and it was wonderful. She will be greatly missed by me as she was a wonderful friend.

Kim Torkko - May 17, 2011 at 11:07 AM

DS

“ Aunt Joyce Always Available, Awesome Aunt Unforgettable & Unique Nicest Notes to Nieces and Nephews Truly Talented at all she Tried Joyfully, Jubliant, Jolly Just Joyce Open-minded, Organizer of Our Out-standing Family Picnics Youthful in spirit she yielded my first baby yellow, yarn baby blanket. Cheerful, Caring, Consistently Considerate Charmer Everyone Enjoyed Your Ecstatic Embrace--- especially me ---Little Dede

DENISE STAPELMAN-SCOTT - May 17, 2011 at 02:29 AM

SA

“ Aunt Joyce visited our family in Washington a handful of times and we got out to see her only a handful more during my lifetime, but I will always remember her as such a vibrant and full of life woman. She showed all my siblings and myself great kindness and sympathy when our mother died. She will always be in my heart for that alone.

Suzanne Stapelman Abbott - May 17, 2011 at 01:21 AM

BM

“ I was very sorry to hear of Joyce's passing. My deepest condolences to her family.

Betty Mankey - May 16, 2011 at 08:28 PM

RS

“ May you rest in peace Joyce and greet your friends and relatives that preceded you. Give them our greetings and put in a good word for us.....

richard j stapelman - May 16, 2011 at 06:14 PM

RS

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richard j stapelman - May 16, 2011 at 05:35 PM

LJ

“ Gail and family, May God bless and keep you at this time of loss.

Lisa (Bartolacci) Jones - May 16, 2011 at 05:23 PM

LB

“ Joyce was so knowledgeable about machine knitting and was always there to give you any help she could. We spent many pleasant times going to knitting classes and shopping for all our supplies. I will miss her.

Linda Bockheim - May 16, 2011 at 01:47 PM

PP

“ Gail, Randy and kids, Our thoughts are with you, she was quite a lady! Peggy, Mike and kids

peggy papoi - May 16, 2011 at 01:38 PM

PD

“ Joyce taught me so much about knitting(those bus trips to Stitches are long) and with her dry sense of humor could make me laugh out loud. She also taught me that expressing one's opinion(whether popular or not) lifted the pressure and eased a lot of stress. I will miss her.

Pat DeLeeuw - May 16, 2011 at 10:20 AM