

Joyce Ann Sparks

April 11, 1932 - April 1, 2019

Joyce Ann Sparks, an inspiration to live life to the fullest (many referred to her as the original energizer bunny), 86, of Charlotte died peacefully on Monday, April 1, 2019 in Charlotte. Joyce was born April 11, 1932, in Battle Creek, Michigan, the oldest of the 3 children of Arthur and Hazel (Berry) Schenck. She graduated from Olivet High School and then received her music degree at Michigan State College (now MSU). She met her sweetheart, Kenneth Sparks, and he proposed to her at the MSC stack. They were married July 11, 1953 and together they raised 5 children. Joyce worked at Schuler's restaurant for 11 years, taught music at Olivet College and taught private piano lessons to half the town of Charlotte for many years. Joyce was an active, dedicated and enthusiastic leader and participant in many local groups. She was the original pianist and sang in the Charlotte Women's Club Choir; member of the General Federation of Women's Club Charlotte Chapter for over 40 years and was elected President and nominated GFWC Charlotte Club Woman of the Year in 2000. She served as Secretary of the Reading Is Fun Committee Program, participated in the City Beautification Program, where she planted thousands of flowers downtown; attended Health by Design for 20 years and volunteered time delivering Mobile Meals. Ken and Joyce were members of the Charlotte County Club, and the First Congregational Church. Joyce chaired the "Driving Crew" for take-out meals for the church's annual bazaar.

Joyce enjoyed going to the Michigan State football games with friends and

loved snow skiing, snowmobiling, DANCING, golfing, walking, exercising and working outdoors. She and Ken visited every state and traveled the world together and with their many friends. She very much enjoyed time spent with family especially when all of them including grandchildren went on a 7-day cruise. She loved playing cards and was a member of a bridge club in Charlotte for 50 years.

Joyce is survived by her children, Jennie (Tom) Richardson, Jodie Leeser, Kent (Susan) Sparks, Kurk Sparks and Judie (John) Bridleman; 11 grandchildren, Jeffrey (Amber) Richardson, Kirsten (Curtis) Wondra, Kyle (Sarah) Leeser, Jay Sparks, Sophia Sparks, Kevin Sparks, Kali Sparks, Kaci Sparks, Kyan Sparks, Jacob Bridleman, Jordan Bridleman; great-grandchildren, Brock, Ella, Colton and Aubrie Wondra, Jace Richardson; brother, Lyle (Darlene) Schenck. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Kenneth N. Sparks and her sister, Sally Dowding.

Friends are encouraged to support Joyce's family at visitation and funeral services. Funeral services are April 6, 2019, 11:00 AM at First Congregational Church in Charlotte with Pastor Curtis Demars-Johnson officiating. Visitation is Friday, April 5, 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM, at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Sensations Memory Care or First Congregational Church of Charlotte. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Joyce on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

APR 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Ceremony

APR 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte
106 S. Bostwick
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Joyce Ann Sparks



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 06, 2019 at 09:21 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce Ann Sparks



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 03, 2019 at 05:14 PM



Judie and John, thank you for allowing us to care for your parents in their last few years. It was truly an honor. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Lisa French - April 05, 2019 at 08:45 PM



What a classy beautiful lady. So glad I was able to care for both of your parents. Oh my Joyce you will be missed

tara vanluven - April 05, 2019 at 10:20 PM

MP

I'm so honored to have been able to work with Joyce. I loved more than anything singing back and forth with her. No matter what, she would always sing back to me even if she couldn't talk at the time. I love you Joyce and I hope you're resting peacefully beautiful angel💕 prayers for Judie and John and the rest of your family, you're in my thoughts.

Mikeayla Pellegrino - April 06, 2019 at 01:53 AM

AL

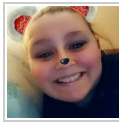
I'm so glad I got to know Joyce. She always had a bright smile and brought so many smiles and laughs to everyone around her. The world was a little better with her in it. Rest easy gentle woman.

Ann Lown - April 06, 2019 at 07:26 AM

CT

I was honored with being able to care for Joyce over the last few years and she was a wonderful women! She was always so full of smiles and laughter with a soulful song to be sung!! She brought such light into my day and I can not put into words how truly blessed I feel to have known her!!

Christina Torre - April 06, 2019 at 12:39 PM



I was honored being able to care for Joyce the five months I've been there. I really enjoyed her being a part of our lives and our family. She will be greatly missed by so many as she always full of laughter and joy. She was such a beautiful soul.

Tiffany Bass - April 06, 2019 at 10:31 PM

CH

“ JOYCE WAS ALWAYS SUCH A JOY AND ALWAYS KNEW HOW TO MAKE YOU LAUGH A FEW SHORT WEEKS SPENT WITH HER SEEMED LIKE A LIFETIME YOU SURE WILL BE MISSED💕

Chelsie - April 05, 2019 at 09:59 PM

RY

“ So sad to hear of Joyce's passing. We shared so many great memories with Joyce and Ken and other friends over the years. Many Church activities, Skiing up North and in Colorado, just an evening together at dinner to catch up on the latest news. Please extend my condolences to all of the family as I am still in Florida, so will not be able to attend the service.

Rod Yates - April 04, 2019 at 05:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Ann Sparks.



April 04, 2019 at 04:30 PM

NF

“ You and your family are in my heart and my condolences on the passing of your mother. She was a very special Lady and a very close friend to my mother, Mary Lou Schneckenberger. My self, along with my sister and father, share many many memories of the famous "Bridge Club Group" with all the laughs and love they experienced together. Love Nancy Fullerton



Nancy Fullerton - April 04, 2019 at 12:22 PM

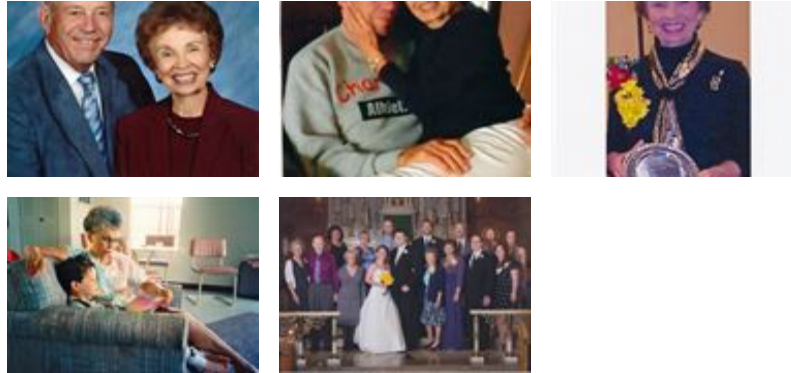
DD

“ So sorry for your families loss 💔 thinking of you all. Donna (Sleight) Davidson

Donna Davidson - April 03, 2019 at 07:02 PM



“ 60 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 03, 2019 at 04:13 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joyce Ann Sparks.



April 03, 2019 at 02:06 PM



“ Eugene Dudley Family - Dudleys, Wilsons, Mishlers purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Joyce Ann Sparks.



Eugene Dudley Family - Dudleys, Wilsons, Mishlers - April 02, 2019 at 08:27 PM