



Martha Louise McDiarmid

March 26, 1935 - March 14, 2024

Martha Louise "Babes" McDiarmid of Charlotte, a quick-witted lady with a great sense of humor and an extensive collection of everything watermelon, died March 14, 2024 at the age of 88. Martha was born in Janesville, WI on March 26, 1935 to Clarence and Ada (Ozmen) Coulson. In February of 1964 she married Lyle McDiarmid and then raised their children in the country, gardening, raising cattle, and even making their own Maple Syrup. Martha was an excellent baker, not only making delicious treats for her family, but she also worked as a baker at Charlotte Bakery and later as a cook at Olivet College for over 25 years. In addition to her collection of watermelon, she also collected Christmas tree pins. Martha also loved flowers, and was very proud of her gardens with her favorite flowers being the Hyacinth and Iris. A proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Martha cherished every moment she spent with her family.

Martha is survived by her children, Steve (Sheila) McDiarmid, Rebecca Berry, Cheri (Jerry) McDiarmid, Wendy Ratliff, Deborah (Joe) Brege, and Eric Scott (Linda) McDiarmid; 15 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bernard (Bev) McDiarmid, Doris Thorton, Joyce (Ron) Need, and Linda (David) Suntken; as well as many nieces and nephews. Martha was predeceased by son, Robert Felder; husband, Lyle McDiarmid; grandson, James VanVleck; brother, Robert Coulson; and sons-in-law, Duke Berry and Warren Clemons.

Friends are encouraged to support Martha's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation is Wednesday, March 20, 5-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Funeral services are Thursday, March 21, 2:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in 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 Martha's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to a charity of your choice. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **20**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

MAR **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Martha Louise McDiarmid*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - March 21, 2024 at 09:22 AM

BM

“ *I was so sorry to hear of Martha's passing. Getting to know her over the last year or so delivering meals to her on Tuesdays was a blessing for me. She always was so friendly and despite her declining health she was always open to seeing me come there. I wasn't always able to see her in person as she was sometimes napping or her granddaughter would meet me to take the meal. I always asked how she was doing. She was a joy to talk to and I will miss her.*

Brenda Monroe, Tri-County Office on Aging (Meals on Wheels) volunteer

Brenda Monroe - April 03, 2024 at 10:47 AM

SF

“ *Sylvia and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Martha Louise McDiarmid.*



Sylvia and Family - March 20, 2024 at 08:25 PM

KL

“ So sorry for the loss of your mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. I never met Martha but by reading the tributes and stories, it sounds like she was a hoot (as is her daughter, my friend) and not only worked hard in raising her family but enjoyed life. To those of you whose lives she touched, may you find comfort, peace and joy in your many memories of Martha. My friend, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers... 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Kim La Brecque

Kim LaBrecque - March 16, 2024 at 06:58 PM

BE

Thank you kim

Becky - March 18, 2024 at 05:24 PM

JS

“ So very sorry for your family's loss. I will always remember her welcoming smile and sense of humor, from the very first time I met your mom to decades later at McD's with Lyle.

Jeff Smith - March 16, 2024 at 08:01 AM

DD

Thank you Jeff. To her , you was called, high pockets. Because you was so much taller than me. She really loved you to. Thank you again Jeff, always thinking of you.

Debi brege (daughter) - March 17, 2024 at 06:49 AM

RC

“ You and your family have been the best neighbors. I'll always treasure my chats with you and Lyle. It was an honor to have a friend and neighbor... Ron

Ron Colson - March 16, 2024 at 12:56 AM

BE

“ Again I agree wholeheartedly with my niece molly ,there are loads of stories about mom to share .

I'll pick just one or two of the many ...

Mom knew how to get things she wanted ..let me explain...

Mom wanted a new couch in the livingroom. She had seen one in a sears or wards catalog and asked dad to buy it for the family .dad responded " we have a perfectly good one right now .no need for another one "

So.....

Next day ..dad went to work.

Us kids went to school ..meanwhile mom **TOOK THE LIVINGROOM COUCH OUT THE FRONT DOOR AND LIT A MATCH TO IT !**

As us kids were walking up the road to the house it looked like the house was on fire ..

When dad came home from work ..the couch was completely gone to ashes ...

Dad came into the livingroom and there on the wall was the picture of the couch mom had asked for .

When dad asked " where's the couch?" Mom replied " right there"all smart-ass like .

Dad "" no ...where's the couch?

Mom saidwhen that couch is sitting here there will be spaces to sit .

I don't remember her getting that actual couch but she did get one !!!

Or the time she wanted new carpet in the livingroom. Once again when she was there alone she took the carpet outside and soaked it with the garden hose then poured Ritz dye on it and used the kitchen broom to cover the carpet with the dye ..

She let it dry all day in the sun ..dragged it back inside and waited for the family to return ..

That carpet ..if you walked on it your feet turned blue and don't even think about laying on the floor ! Shortly afterwards ..she got new carpet through the living and dinning room ..

See ? She had her ways !

Becky - March 15, 2024 at 09:35 PM

MB

“Wow there are so many stories and memories that come to mind. We can start with grandma's cooking...I'm sure all the grandkids are now chuckling. And poor Scott, you should of know what you were getting into, you were always going to be the guinea pig to her cooking. The Mac and cheese with cheetos on top, apple pie with zucchini layers, the mayonnaise and beet chocolate cake. Later in life it was the sugar free food, literally no sugar. She liked to tell stories about her childhood when my mom and I would visit. And now I know why she always tried to pinch a penny, kinda had to with 7 kids. Your really have to think about how much we take for granted these days. I started recording stories was telling because I knew one day we would forget. One story sticks out the most and is probably one of the funniest. Grandma finally realized she could t drive anymore. After one day at meijer she was backing up and almost backed into the posts infront of the doors. She said she couldn't feel her feet and didn't know what petal they were on. But the previous shopping trip is when she hit another car in the parking lot. The owners of the car was in the parking lot and seen the whole thing. Grandma said the lady was yelling and pointing at the car so grandma backed back out and floored it, but being in a panic put it in 1st or 2nd gear. So it was a high reving slow retreat out of town and back home before the cops showed up. She drove all the way home thinking she has now broke grandpa's car probably only going 30 mph. We were laughing so hard at her telling this story.

Molly brege - March 15, 2024 at 08:39 PM