



## Martha Alice Proteau

August 15, 1941 - May 21, 2023

Martha "Marti" Alice (Powers) Proteau, 81, of Charlotte, died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Marti was born August 15, 1941 in a neighbor's house in Lee Township, MI, the daughter of Lansing Ray and Jennoeve (Williams) Powers. Martha grew up on Duck Lake, where she met the love her life at 10 years old, a boy named Robert Gene Proteau, who lived on the other side of the lake. They attended Olivet High School together as sweethearts, and after graduating in 1960 they married a few months later on July 17. They enjoyed 49 years together before he passed in 2009. Bob and "Myrtle Mae" (as Bob affectionately called her) raised four children, all of who survive her: Luann Shepherd, Debra Heinze, Alan Proteau, and Peggy (Ray) Needham. Also surviving are 6 grandchildren, Jacki, Kimi, Sara, DJ, Samantha, and Jayde; and 6 great-grandchildren, Josh, Aidin, Lilly, Lorelei, Sawyer, and Ty. She is also survived by her special in-laws, Jim and Sheryl Proteau; special niece who took care of her, Janice Powers; and many other nieces and nephews.

Marti worked at Walmart in Charlotte for 28 1/2 years before retiring a few years ago. "Miss Martha," as she was affectionately known to shoppers and staff alike, served in many roles throughout her tenure, including Cashier and Customer Service Manager. She loved getting to go to work every day, and shared her joy with all who encountered her. Many believed her to be the most hugged employee in the history of Walmart.

"Mom" made all of her family feel like the most important people in the world, a kindness that acquired her many additional honorary kids and grandkids who she loved unconditionally. She was one of ten children born to her parents, all of who predeceased her: Bethel, Gloria, Wayne, Melvin "Bub," Betty Lou, Goldie, Lansing, Jakie, and Christina. She was also predeceased by her parents and her parents-in-law, Al and Marjorie Proteau.

Friends are encouraged to support Marti's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). Visitation will be from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at Pray Funeral Home. 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](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Marti's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Memorial contributions may be made to the family in care of Debbra Heinze. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **23.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W Seminary St  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral

MAY **24.** 1:00 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 Alice Proteau*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - May 23, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha Alice Proteau*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - May 23, 2023 at 12:40 AM

DP

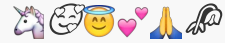
*She was one of the first to welcome me with open arms she made me feel at home I will never forget her I'll miss her so much she always had a cheery word*

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**Donald procknow** - May 23, 2023 at 10:17 AM

EC

*RIP MY DEAR SWEET FRIEND, I MENT YOU AT WALMART AN WE WORKED TOGETHER FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS, YOUR SWEET, CAREING AN YOU ALWAYS HAD A SMILE FOR EVERYONE. YOU ARE A TRUE ANGEL. I WILL MISS YOU VERY MUCH MARTHA. LOVE YOUR FRIEND EMMA AN BARRY FROM WALMART*



**EMMA AN BARRY STENSON FROM WAL-MART IN C** - May 24, 2023 at 08:22 AM

DM

*“ I fondly remember her from my Walmart trips. She was such a sweet, kind lady, and she was always there with a smile and a helpful word for her co-workers and shoppers alike. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing, she was a wonderful lady.*

**Diane Mohre** - May 24, 2023 at 11:03 AM

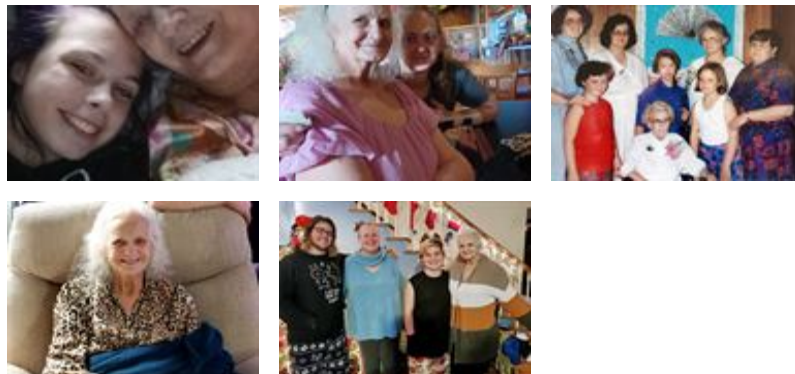
MH

*“ Miss Martha was one of the sweetest people to work with at Walmart. Always smiling . She will be missed*

**Missy hamlin** - May 24, 2023 at 09:23 AM



*“ 11 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - May 24, 2023 at 09:13 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.*



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May 24, 2023 at 04:16 AM



“ *Luann & Debbie, so sorry to hear about the passing of your mom.*

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**Michael Fuller** - May 23, 2023 at 07:09 PM



“ *Knew her for years she was a sweet lady mom p you are going to well miss*

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**Robin** - May 23, 2023 at 03:37 PM



“ *Martha was the sweetest person I've ever met.. even though I was just a regular shopper over all the years that Walmart has been here ~ she made me feel like we were old friends. ♡  
She always asked after family life, and even remembered my children's names.  
Her life was a happy, wholesome experience for everyone around her and she is going to be sorely missed.  
My sincerest condolences to her family.. your loss is tremendous.  
You're in my thoughts and prayers forever... Martha was a friend I'm going to miss that long 😭.*

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**Rochelle Robbins** - May 23, 2023 at 02:32 PM

JC

“ We worked a lot of years at Wal-Mart with Martha. She was always so nice too everyone. She will be missed by everyone. sending our condolences to all her family. Howard and Jane Cheney

Jane Cheney - May 23, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.



May 23, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.



May 23, 2023 at 10:03 AM

DL

“ I remember one year many moons ago my mother taught me to make change purses and I gave one to ms Martha and she kept that till it was thin and when I offered to make her a new one she said no I will use this one till it shreds  
I will miss you ms Martha you were a wonderful lady

dawn ledford - May 23, 2023 at 09:39 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.



May 23, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ Martha was the sweetest and friendliest person at Walmart where i met her. I LOVED her!! She always had a smile and a hug. She approached me in Subway one day and said we were related somehow, cousins? I'm not sure but she was excited and gave me a huge hug. I'm going to miss that beautiful smiling face. ❤️

Tina Kozachik - May 23, 2023 at 06:35 AM

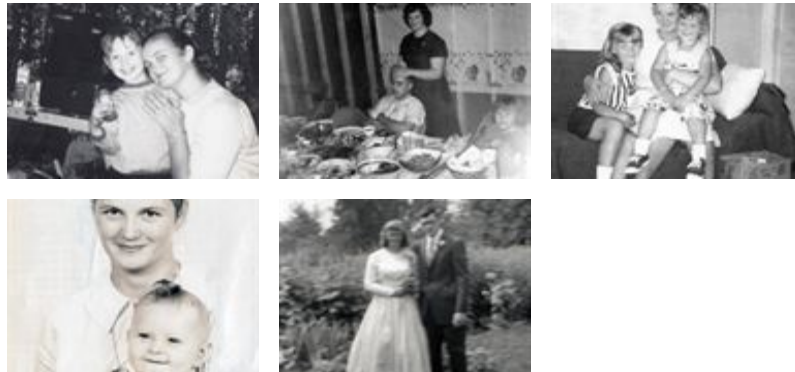


Yes, she and Grandma Oteney were cousins, so we are cousins down the line with her. So cool to be related to someone so awesome as her

Andy - May 23, 2023 at 09:02 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 23, 2023 at 12:36 AM

CS

“ *The most sweetest person in the world.I will miss you.*

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**Carolyn shumaker** - May 22, 2023 at 09:22 PM

RS

“ *Loved waiting on you at Denny's xoxo 🥰*



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**Rhonda Swaney** - May 22, 2023 at 08:55 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Alice Proteau.*

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May 22, 2023 at 08:50 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.*



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May 22, 2023 at 08:50 PM

RC

“ *Martha, Martha, you were always pleasant to be around. Loved how you joked with us. Gonna miss seeing you at the Diner. Thanks for being a friend. Ron*

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**Ron Colson** - May 22, 2023 at 07:20 PM

MI

“ I’ve always considered Miss Martha an angel on earth, now she is truly an angel in Heaven. I’m so blessed to have loved her to pieces for many years. Debbie and Sarah, your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Missy - May 22, 2023 at 06:40 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Martha Alice Proteau.



May 22, 2023 at 06:23 PM

VW

“ So sorry to hear of her passing. She was a great woman.

Valerie Winnie Whitney - May 22, 2023 at 05:18 PM

PN

Thank you

Peggy Proteau Needham - May 22, 2023 at 05:44 PM

KS

“ Al and Peggy, I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was so sweet and nice. I use to love chatting with her at Walmart. She always had time to chat and keep me posted on you all. Her smile was always so friendly. My thoughts and prayer are with you and your Family.

Kerr A Stiver - May 22, 2023 at 04:59 PM

PN

*Thank you Kerri. Your condolences and a little memory of her are appreciated.*

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**Peggy Proteau Needham** - May 22, 2023 at 05:45 PM

KV

*Peggy, I'm so saddened by the loss of your Momma. She was absolutely the kindest person and always had such a welcoming beautiful smile while working at Walmart. I know where your heart for other's came from. Make God give you and your family peace and strength as you face this time without her.*

*Kristy (Koos) Volz*

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**Kristy (Koos) Volz** - May 22, 2023 at 06:52 PM

LN

“ *My condolences to the family. God bless you all.*

*Miss Laurie from GROW*

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**Laurie Newland** - May 22, 2023 at 04:48 PM

SM

“ *My Miss Martha. I grew up knowing you asy family ( cousins), and then when I got married Bob was my ex husband's supervisor and we would sit and talk alot, Bob also made sure I brought him on chocolate chip cookies. LoL.*



*Your going to be missed by myself and many others. My best memory I have of you is right after my mom died. I walked into my place diner and you was sitting there and made me sit on your lap ( even after I argued I was to heavy to sit on your lap) you still made me. Just so you could hug me and we sat there and cried together. We all cherished my mom as much as you was cherished by everyone. I'm so gunna miss hearing you tell me it's gunna be ok. And telling me that you love me. I love you always and forever. You have touched so many hearts including mine. I'm proud to call you my family.*

*Love you always and forever cousin Sarah*

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**Sarah McGillis** - May 22, 2023 at 04:06 PM

JV

*I first met Martha in Walmart. I knew immediately that she was a Precious Christian Sister. You could tell before she said she loved God by the way she loved and treated others. She became a friend of our family and we all loved her. Martha had chickens and enjoyed caring for them. Anything Martha touched turned out good. Everyone who had the advantage of knowing Martha was fortunate to have knowing this soft spoken, sweet, and loving lady. I will miss seeing Martha, but I know that we will see each other again when the Lord takes me home. I am so sorry for her children's and grandchildren loss. I love you all. Janice Vinson and family.*

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**Janice Vinson** - May 22, 2023 at 04:53 PM

JS

“ *Jeff Smith lit a candle in memory of Martha  
Alice Proteau*



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**Jeff Smith** - May 22, 2023 at 04:01 PM