



Mary Clarice Harris

January 22, 1946 - December 3, 2019

Mary Clarice Harris, 73, a warm and caring woman of deep Faith and a loving mother and grandmother, died Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at her home in Charlotte. Mary was born January 22, 1946 on Selfridge Field Airforce Base in Harrison Twp., MI, the daughter of William Richard and Mary Lisette (Leitz) Stephens. During her childhood, the family moved often with her father's Air Force assignments. She graduated high school from Rome Free Academy in Rome, NY, before eventually returning to Michigan and taking a job with Michigan Bell Telephone Company, where she met Michael Duane Harris. The two married six months later on February 21, 1970. They settled in Charlotte, where Mary served as a troop leader for both boy scouts and girl scouts, and she began her career in education as a volunteer for Potterville Schools. Following her time in Potterville, she started with Charlotte Public Schools in juvenile corrections, eventually moving on as a para professional at the High School, Galewood Elementary, and finally the Middle School before retirement after over 15 years.

Mary devoted much of her time and talent to Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte. As a longtime member, she served as head of the Altar Guild, and helped prepare meals through the church for the Eaton Area Senior Center Thanksgiving dinners. She lived a busy lifestyle in retirement, mostly through the workings of her Faith. She enjoyed swimming at the Aquatic Center and Tuesday trips to the movie theater with her best friend Chris Stough. Chris

and Mary also travelled the country together visiting family members and friends. Above all, Mary loved and cherished her family.

Mary is survived by her husband of 49 years, Michael; son, Michael (Lauria) Harris of Trenton, MI; daughter, Mary (Trevar Hogan) Harris of Marshall, MI; granddaughter, Alice Harris, and another granddaughter due in January; brother, Robert (Nancy) Stephens; sisters-in-law, Beverly Stephens and Nancy Cherry; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brothers, William Stephens, Jr. and Barry Stephens.

Friends are encouraged to support Mary's family. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor David Keller officiating. Visitation will be from 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM on Monday, December 9, 2019 at the funeral home. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Mary on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Deepdale Memorial Gardens

4108 Old Lansing Road
Lansing
Lansing, MI 48917

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

DEC 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Ceremony

DEC 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Clarice Harris*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 08, 2019 at 10:01 PM

DB

“ *I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Mary at the Aquatic Center therapy pool. We spent many hours in the pool having conversations of everyday life, aches and pains, I enjoyed our Wednesday afternoon chats in the pool where we talked about her Tuesday movies that her and her friend Chris saw and what movie that they were going to see next Tuesday.. I will cherish our friendship and her conversations that we've had... My condolences to the Harris family many thoughts and prayers in your time of need... she is pain-free now and resting in peace ..*



*My condolences,
Doug Bishop, The Aquatic therapy pool....*

Doug Bishop - December 10, 2019 at 10:58 AM

“ I had the extreme honor, privilege, and pleasure of being the last teacher to be blessed with Mary’s humor, patience, knowledge, and stamina while we worked together in the Special Education program at Charlotte Middle School. Her heart went out to every child and they knew they were loved. They also knew that they had better live up to their potential or Mrs. Harris would have a word with them. She made her special yummy brownies for our classroom celebrations and as a valuable member of our classroom team, she was there to lend a listening ear and a comforting hug to students and adults when it was desperately needed.

When Mary wanted to retire at the age of 60, no amount of begging on my part could persuade her to stay. She was ready to move on to other things in her life that made her happy. It was evident to us that Michael, Mikey (as we knew him), and Mary made her happy and were her greatest loves and source of pride. We knew everything about them, and they may not be happy to know that! Her heart was on fire for her family.

Mary was great fun outside of work too. A few times she took her shitzu and I took my mom’s shitzu for walks, and we’d end up carrying the dogs back home because they were too tired to walk any further. We, along with Anita, liked to go to dinner or lunch when we could find the time. It felt good to kick back, talk about our day and the students, laugh, revitalize, and get ready for the next day. To Mary’s family, Michael, “Mikey”, and Mary, and other family members, please accept my most sincere sympathies. Mary was the best, and I’ll never forget her.

Chris Hoover



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 08, 2019 at 09:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of *Mary Clarice Harris*.



December 08, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ *Tom, Gabi & Emily* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of *Mary Clarice Harris*.



Tom, Gabi & Emily - December 08, 2019 at 03:09 AM



“ *I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of Mary Clarice Harris.*



December 07, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ *I met Mary through Myra Griffus, OUR neighbor in the middle. Myra would hold an annual garage sale and Mary would have things in it and so would I and the other neighbors. There we would sit and talk and laugh. Mary knew I had a young teenage daughter and I didn't have much money. She'd always make sure to point out things her daughter had in the sale....so I could get them. Mary had a big heart. She also had a great sense of humor. Mary was such a terrific mom...I'd listen to her talk so proudly about her daughter when she was growing up (yes, the annual garage sale went from young Mary's elementary years through her college years!!!) I always knew how "young" Mary was doing because her mom was always telling of the GREAT things she did. I also would talk to her through tube painting sessions our kids were in for 4-H. She was always happy and always such a positive force. Just a good-hearted person you felt fortunate to know. I know she won't be gone....we just won't be able to see her. She will be watching over her grandbaby. Her presence will always be around.*

Marti Leslie - December 06, 2019 at 10:16 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Clarice Harris.*



December 06, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ *Abby Sochacki purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Clarice Harris.*



Abby Sochacki - December 05, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of the passing of this lovely and caring lady. Mary became a friend and confidant during our time spent with the Greater Lansing Attention Deficit Disorder group. She was always there for support and her wonderful smile. My thought and prayers are with her family and friends.*

P A Bulock - December 05, 2019 at 10:06 AM



“ *I am so sad to hear about Mary's passing. I met her at the pool and enjoyed many conversations with her there. I will keep the family in my prayers during this most difficult time. God bless.*

Linda Martin - December 05, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Clarice Harris.*



December 04, 2019 at 10:28 PM



“ *Mary and Michael have been very good friends to us weve done a lot together over the years, they have helped us out every time we called. Mary always has a smile on when ever I see her and lots of lafter, we well miss her very much our hearts and prayers go out to Michael and the two children she adored. Neil and Jane King*

Jane King - December 04, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Clarice Harris.*



December 04, 2019 at 07:47 PM