



## Mary Stefia Wadsten

April 24, 1931 - July 2, 2020

Mary S. (Smith) Wadsten, age 89 of Southfield, formerly of Charlotte, passed in peace on July 2, 2020. Mary is survived by her sister, Anne (Smith) Kent; sister-in-law, Carole (Wadsten) and Leo Link; many nieces and nephews: Glenn and Mary (Madry) Shook, Tom and Teresa (Kent) Gloden, Jeff and Kris (Kent) Hynes, Kevin and Cassandra Wadsten, Matt and Joyce (Redwood) Tellitocci, Scot and Sherri (Katz) Pirie, Kyle and Marcia Wadsten, Sandra (Wadsten) Johnson, Steve Wadsten, Nancy (Redwood) and Brian Salin, Gregory Watson and dear friend Carolyn Plsek. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donald Wadsten; her parents, Joseph and Mary (Vrbensky) Smith; sisters, Frances (Smith) Madry and Elsie Smith; brothers-in-law, Louis Madry, Gerald Kent, Ralph Wadsten and James Wadsten; and sister-in-law, Phyllis Redwood; nephews, John Kent and Larry Redwood; and niece Gayle (Redwood) Stanek.

Mary graduated from Charlotte High School in 1948 and from Wayne State University in 1953, where she received her master's degree in elementary and secondary education majoring in business administration. She completed 30 hours beyond her master's degree studying at the University of Hawaii and Arizona State University. She held positions of business teacher, office and distributive education coordinator and business department head at Cody High School in Detroit, where she began her career and worked until she retired in 1986. She also taught part-time at Wayne State University,

University of Detroit, Oakland Community College and Henry Ford Community College. She conducted numerous workshops for Professional Secretaries International at Schoolcraft College and the Detroit College of Business.

Mary lived life to the fullest and was a classy and beautiful woman. She loved her family and friends, golf, dancing, bowling, skiing, baking and her career. She loved planting her flowerbeds that were always magnificent. She touched the lives of many community friends whom she met throughout her daily travels over the years and carried their favorite chocolates to gift as tokens of appreciation and affection for each of them. She helped many by being a great listener, friend, supporter, advocate, editor and advisor. She never slowed down or stopped. Her superb work ethic, intellect and kind heart were apparent in all aspects of her life. She was an amazing friend to anyone she met, always leaving her friends and relatives feeling special, understood, and encouraged. She showed great interest in her nieces and nephews from childhood to adulthood and served as a wonderful role model to them.

Mary leaves behind many relatives and friends who will miss her, her spirit and her vibrancy.

Friends are encouraged to support Mary's family at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte. A Funeral Mass with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at the church. Visitation will precede the Mass from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in the church hall. Visitors will be directed to observe all social distancing safety practices. Interment will take place in Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to either Beaumont Hospice (1975 Technology Dr. Suite J120, Troy, MI 48083) or Helping Hand Homecare Service (2360 Paris Dr., Troy, MI 48083).

Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Mary on her Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://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

## Mass

JUL 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Mary Stefia Wadsten*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 06, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Stefia Wadsten*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 05, 2020 at 03:50 PM

DH

“ My sincere sympathy to the entire family on the loss of Mary. She was truly a treasure to know and love. I met Mary in the 70's when I was substitute teaching at Cody High School. She took me under her wing and she and Don were responsible for helping me find my teaching job at Birmingham Public Schools, where I worked for 35 years. We were friends from then on. She, Don, and my husband Ben golfed together often. They visited us up North to golf and then have dinner after, where she would always have treats for wait staff. I remember the day she told me about both her and Don's medical diagnosis. Over the years we talked on the phone continuously. I am really saddened to lose my great friend. Rest In Peace, Mary.

*Diane Henson*

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**Diane Henson** - July 19, 2020 at 10:20 AM

MS

“ Our Mother, Marilyn Wilmore Sullivan, began a life long friendship with Mary at Charlotte High School. Through Christmas cards, letters and brief visits during our summertime trips from South Carolina, their friendship endured. Mom sends her love to Mary's family and friends and shares in the celebration of her life, a life well spent.

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**Matthew W Sullivan** - July 07, 2020 at 12:22 PM

CC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I worked with Mary as a Business Teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.  
*Curlene Collins*

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**Curlene Collins** - July 07, 2020 at 11:59 AM

AL

“ *With Sympathy For Your Loss*

*Praying that you'll find peace in knowing the light of such a beautiful spirit lives on.*

*Annette Lane, Retired Business Teacher*

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**Annette Lane** - July 07, 2020 at 10:23 AM

 Gary  
Alpert

“ *I worked with Mary for only one semester at Cody. She was friendly and extremely efficient in her job. I had the pleasure of working with her thru the years on different Business Education projects. I wish I had a chance to even know her better. She was the ultimate professional.*

*Gary Alpert-retired Detroit business teacher.*

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**Gary Alpert** - July 06, 2020 at 10:13 PM

BC

“ I first met Mary through my Aunt Marion and Uncle Bill in Lathrup Village, Michigan. My folks had been assigned to Brazil, and I stayed home with them in Michigan for my senior year in high school.

Marion and Mary were quite the duo!. Almost like sisters, at times they seemed inseparable: shopping, traveling, and being together. That was good fortune for me because neither of them had their own children. So, of course, I was pampered and spoiled! It was so much fun. I enjoyed being with them very much.

Then, during my High School Reunion many years later, my wife and I had the pleasure of joining Mary and Don for lunch while we were in Birmingham, MI. Since our daughter is a school teacher, we shared a lot of things and "talked a lot of shop". Mary was such a cheerful and inspiring person.

Over the years, we stayed in touch, mainly by phone. Always thinking about when we could get back to Michigan to visit. But things in San Diego never worked out to do so.

Now we just have our memories. We will miss her.

Rest in peace, Ms. Mary.

Sincerely,

Bill and Socorro Collins and Family

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**Bill Collins** - July 06, 2020 at 09:30 PM



“ I am so sorry for the loss of a great friend, aunt and a special person Mary S. Wadsten. She was the most independent, funny and sharming women I ever met. I called her my 21 year old friend, because thanks to her open mind she reached out the people across the generations. What a gift she had! At any placed she entered, the people were welcoming her with a big smile. She continued the correspondence with far family after her mother, as eg. the ancestors from her father line, that she visited back in 1958 in Czech Republic. Thanks to her persistent work and care I could discover the family across the ocean and know you personally back in 2001. Mary and Don were such great hosts to me, so patients to understand my broken English, teach me golf and life wisdom. She lived beautiful life next to her beloved husband Don, surrounded by caring family and friends. I know how much difficult was for her the loss of her husband that she supported with all her strengths up to his last days. I will pray for her, may her soul rest in peace.  
Love,  
Michaela

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Michaela Montalbano - July 06, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Stefia Wadsten.



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July 06, 2020 at 01:08 PM

RB

“ *My sincere condolence to Mary's family.  
Mary was my dearest cousin and friend. She always was willing to listen and gave unbiased suggestions if asked.  
I feel so blessed having known and valued Mary or more than 60 years. May she rest in peace.*  
*Regina Brown*

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**Regina M Brown** - July 06, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Stefia Wadsten.*



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July 05, 2020 at 07:56 PM

RD

“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers go out the Wadsten Family. Mrs. Wadsten was my Typing teacher at Cody Senior High School and I'll always remember her compassion as a teacher.*  
*Mr. Roderick O. Dillard, Detroit Mi (Cody High School, Class of 81)*

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**Roderick O. Dillard** - July 05, 2020 at 05:57 PM

LW

“ Dear Wadsten Family, My Heart and Prayers go out to you during this difficult time. I know that you all will find comfort in reminiscing about all the special moments you have shared with her. Mary means the world to my family and me. Mary and her beloved Don who proceeded her was so much a part of my families life. Mary felt more like family than the dear friend she was. She was a part of dance recitals, my daughter's wedding, and my granddaughter's surprise 18th birthday party which were significant moments in our lives. Mary and Don were integral parts of of my life, my daughter and my grandchildren's lives. Mary and Don shared books and always sent cards to the kids on holidays and birthdays. She was the best neighbor ever and we shared a special bond and friendship. I can go on and on about how great she is and all the special moments we shared , but there is not enough space. We were there for each other and supported each other.

We needed her to stay, however, Don, her dear beloved husband and our Heavenly Father beckoned our Angel to join them in the Kingdom. The beautiful flower will now adorn God's beautiful garden. I'll miss her, but she will always hold a special place in my heart and my families. May she rest in God's Heavenly Peace with the Love of her life, Don. I Love You, Mary!!! LaVerne Wimbush-Crim, (Angie, Khalil', Angel)

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LaVerne Wimbush-Crim - July 05, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ 177 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 05, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ *Met Mary at the nursing home taking care of her mom I noticed the golf jewelry Well she knows my brother in Detroit anyway 20 years of friendship evolved she and Don Donnie welcomed into their hearts my daughter Nicole and treated her like a granddaughter and treated me as well as a friend loved her if you played golf with her it was 9 and dine as she brought the snacks*

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**Michael Cauzillo** - July 05, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ *Joyce & Matt Tellitocci purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Mary Stefia Wadsten.*



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**Joyce & Matt Tellitocci** - July 05, 2020 at 09:22 AM

JL

“ Mary was an exceptional friend who always cared about others. I felt honored to have her friendship and will miss her. May her family find comfort in remembering all the special times they shared. Her presence would brighten any room she entered. I know she is at peace and in God's loving arms.  
Joanne LaBrecque

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**Joanne LaBrecque** - July 04, 2020 at 11:33 PM

PH

“ Mary was such a fun loving person and was always dressed to the nines! Spent many Saturday mornings over breakfast sharing our Friday night antics with my best friends! She was a good listener and wS such a smart lady! She will be missed!

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**Patty Hamlin** - July 04, 2020 at 08:40 PM

CK

“ I will never forget Mary Wadsten. I first met Mary when she was my student teacher at Cody High School. She taught me everything I know and has always been tremendous inspiration to me. Mary and I became best of friends. We golfed together often and eventually added her husband, Don, and my son, Jeff, to make it a foursome. Don and Mary and my husband, sandy and I would get together often for golf and dinner. When Mary became sick, we would have to be content with just meeting for breakfast and we would both look forward to the two hour breakfasts. It would take that long to catch up. When we could no longer meet, Mary and I would talk by phone. I will miss Mary tremendously. No one can take her place. She was my best friend. I take comfort knowing she is now with her husband and best friend, Don. Hit 'em straight Mary. Carol Klein

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**Carol Klein** - July 04, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Stefia Wadsten.* ”



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July 04, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall* ”



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**Joyce Tellitocci** - July 04, 2020 at 02:25 PM



*A lifetime of love meant to be - now they are together again!*

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**Joyce Tellitocci** - July 04, 2020 at 02:28 PM

PG

“ My dear friend Mary is gone:  
May your love, radiance, wisdom and energy spread out like wildfire in this world. I will truly miss the conversations we had throughout the years not to mention the chocolates and the reading material that you would so neatly pack and underline the important stuff for me to read. Ann and Glenn and the rest of the family “I’m am truly sorry for your loss, she will surely be missed.”  
It seems like yesterday when Mary , Don and Father Berg would visit after a round of golf, I’m sure by now they found each other in heaven and will start playing golf in the clouds. (She loves the game)  
God bless you all and may Mary Rest In Peace.  
Peter Gojcaj (Omega Restaurant)

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Peter V Gojcaj - July 04, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Stefia Wadsten.



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July 04, 2020 at 10:25 AM

JH

“ We wish all well and remember with joy our sharing together at Don's funeral. Since then we have had a few conversations with Mary and value the time spent with her. We wish Ann Kent and all comfort and some satisfaction in knowing Mary all these years.

We are regretful that we can't be with all during this time.

Love, from Jim and Bernie Hynes

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James Hynes - July 04, 2020 at 10:16 AM

JG

“ I met Mary nearly twenty years ago when she and her husband Don first visited the restaurant where I work. We quickly became friends and looking back, she was the truest friend anyone could have. Mary had the kindest heart...she only gave and never expected anything in return. She cared so deeply and I will miss her so much. I did not deserve her friendship and love all these years, but I'm beyond grateful for it....she was such a blessing. I'm so very sorry for your loss and I pray God comforts and gives all of you strength.



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JG - July 03, 2020 at 07:13 PM