



Shirley Mae Ash

April 19, 1926 - May 28, 2016

Shirley Mae (Tellas) Ash was born April 19, 1926 to William McKinley and Allie Mae (Thackery) Tellas in Pontiac, Michigan. She was the third of six children, Marjorie, Mildred, Betty, William A., and Douglas Tellas. She attended several schools in the family's travels before settling in Charlotte, Michigan graduating in the class of 1944. During WW2 Shirley joined the ranks of many of the women who helped in the war effort and became "Rosie the Riveter" where she became an accomplished aluminum welder for this nation's B-29 airplanes that were needed. Many stories she would tell of her time in this role, one of her favorites was that her dad also worked in this same plane factory and made only .01 more per hour than she did.

On January 1, 1946, Shirley married Clare Ash Jr. in Greensburg, Indiana. Together they would have 3 sons, Dennis, Mark and Steven. Shirley and Clare settled on a small farm and working together grew their farm to be one of the more successful farms in Michigan growing cattle, hogs, and cash crops later moving and settling in the Upper Peninsula having a cow/calf business and growing seed beans and barley. She helped in every aspect of the farming operations.

She entered into the banking business after the war, starting in Charlotte and later moving to Sunfield, Sault Ste. Marie and finally in Garden, Michigan. She was a teller and a branch manager during her career. As their children were

growing up she was an active 4-H Leader. Shirley was also very involved in her church, holding the office of treasurer for many years at the Garden Congregational Church and then later after moving back to Charlotte at the Gresham United Methodist Church.

Above all, Shirley was most proud of her family. Her brothers and sisters were very close to her heart and she loved spending time with them. She was very proud, caring, and loving to her sons, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There was no one who could make better oatmeal cookies, potato salad, baked beans and apple crisp than she.

Surviving family members include her husband Clare, sons Dennis (Danette) of Rapid River, Michigan. Mark (Judith) of Cheboygan, Michigan and Steven (Judy) of Charlotte, Michigan. Grandchildren Mike (Laura) Ash, Austin (Cassie) Ash, Adrienne (Daryl) St. Vincent. Matthew (Kate) Ash, JoAnne Ash, Joseph Ash. Steven Jr. (Lacey) Ash and Christopher Ash. Brothers William (Donna) Tellas and Douglas (Janet) Tellas. Special nieces Judy (Gary) Walters and JoAnne (Thomas) Fogle. And 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death are her parents, sisters Marjorie (Francis) Maurer, Mildred Boyles, Betty Buell and granddaughter Kristen Lynn Ash. The family will receive guests for visitation at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte on Tuesday, May 31 from 3:00-5:00 PM and 7:00-9:00 PM. Her funeral services will be held Wednesday, June 1 at 11:00 AM at Pray Funeral Home with Deacon Tom Fogle officiating. Interment will follow at Gresham Cemetery. If desired, memorials are suggested to the Gresham United Methodist Church. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Shirley's Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Gresham Cemetery

4100 Mulliken Rd
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Shirley Mae Ash*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 31, 2016 at 12:33 PM

BS

Mark and Judy, sorry for your loss of your Mother. You and your family are in my prayers. God bless

Bonnie Sather - June 02, 2016 at 05:51 PM

NH

“ *It was truly an honor to care for Shirley for the time I did. She was an amazing woman full of smiles and happiness she will be truly missed.. Sorry for your loss*



Nicole Hetherington - June 02, 2016 at 06:54 AM

WR

“ *Mark and Judy, we send condolences on the loss of your mother. Our prayers are with you.*

*Bryan & Wendy Rudolph
Alberta Canada*

Wendy Rudolph - June 01, 2016 at 07:58 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - May 31, 2016 at 12:23 PM



“ Mike P. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.



Mike P. - May 31, 2016 at 11:46 AM



“ Jim and Pam Parkinson and Linda Parkinson purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.



Jim and Pam Parkinson and Linda Parkinson - May 31, 2016 at 10:47 AM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.*



May 31, 2016 at 07:58 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.*



May 31, 2016 at 05:05 AM



“ *Shirley was a faithful member of the Garden Congregational church and served as our church treasurer for many years. I appreciate the job she did since I now am the church treasurer and know how much work it involves. Shirley was always so sweet...when she moved back downstate we lost touch but I will always love her...*

Sue Fox - May 30, 2016 at 10:24 PM



“ *Mark, Judy, Matt, JoAnne, Joe purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.*



Mark, Judy, Matt, JoAnne, Joe - May 29, 2016 at 11:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.*



May 29, 2016 at 06:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley Mae Ash.*



May 29, 2016 at 03:08 PM



“ *Sue said it best, but my most favorite Days Inn/Shirley story happened after a terrific rain storm. Shirley was making the balcony all neat and dumped a chair seat full of water over the edge of the balcony. Right onto my "just done" hairdo!!!! She was mortified, of course. When you and Shirl came back from your day trip she had a "sorry" card and a little stuffed dog for me. The card is long gone but the dog lives in my living room on the couch. Every time I fluff his coat I think of Shirl and you and the wonderful friends we all had. Bet the ones who went before her are waiting to get a hug!!!
Joyce*

Joyce Marshall - May 29, 2016 at 02:06 PM

JK

“ Too many to post, but I loved that Shirley was always well dressed, makeup, earrings, lipstick and sometimes those cute little cowboy boots! she loved to tell me about her boys and the farm life she loved. She was feisty and cute. She loved Clare, once saying she didn't like king size beds, she couldn't find her Clare. We ate ice cream and apple pies at McDonald's, charmed by the Beach in Alabama. She added richness to our winters in AL. FLY my friend!

jim & sue keeling - May 28, 2016 at 11:36 PM