



## Shirley Lou Bruce

May 15, 1926 - August 9, 2013

Shirley Lou (Mate) Bruce, 87, of Charlotte, MI died Friday, August 9, 2013. Mrs. Bruce was born May 15, 1926 in Charlotte, the daughter of Theron and Beulah (Huntoon) Mate. She is survived by her daughter, Julie Shaver of Charlotte; grandchildren; Kristen Parker of Eaton Rapids, Jessica (Derek) Combs of Eaton Rapids, Robert Matthew (Angela) Shaver of Twin Lake; great-grandchildren, Caden Kalczynski, Landen Parker, Braylen Parker, Shane Combs, Brandon Combs, Bryce Shaver and Leah Shaver. She was a telephone operator for Michigan Bell Telephone, and then went on to be employed by the Eaton County Juvenile Court. Once she retired, she was a valued Red Cross volunteer for the HGB Hospital for many years. Shirley and her husband, Bob, built their dream home together on Kalamo Hwy. They enjoyed spending lots of time in Harrison on the family farm, and spent many happy years in Florida together. Shirley was a very proud grandma, and loved to share stories about her grandchildren, as well as her great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Robert, son Douglas, daughter, Jacquelyn Bruce Converse, and brother Jack C. Mate. Visitation will be Monday, August 12, 2013 from 6-8:00 PM. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at Pray Funeral Home with Pastor Phil Hobson officiating, followed by the interment at Bosworth Cemetery. If desired memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Palliative Care. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home of Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to leave remembrances and condolences in Shirley's

Book of Memories at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com) <http://www.prayfuneral.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ I was sad to read that Shirley had died. I met her a year ago when she was added to my Meals on Wheels route and always looked forward to our little visit. Obviously I did not know her well or for a long time but her beauty and charm and sweet greeting each time were a blessing to my day; a bit of sunshine no matter what the wether. Lovely smile. I will miss seeing her and can imagine what a big hole that little lady leaves in your life.

Aggie Lewis - August 23, 2013 at 08:35 AM

TS

“ Hey Julie, just heard about your mom. I hope God comforts you and keeps all the good memories of her close to your heart.

Tom Schaefer - August 14, 2013 at 08:25 AM

C(

“ Dear Julie and family, So sorry to hear of your Moms passing. She was such a sweet lady and I'm so glad we had a chance to chat at Jackies benefit and funeral. She sure had a lot to deal with this past year and was so strong. I remember when we were kids playing after school that Jackie would pick up the phone to let Shirley know she was home then talk with Grandma Mate. Shirley had to have been one of the first operators! No use trying to. Call anybody else, she would know immediately! I know she loved all of yor dearly as you loved her in return. She will be greatly missed.

Carol Butzow (Milbourne) - August 13, 2013 at 11:28 PM

TH

“ Julie-We were saddened to hear this news. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless! Love you Hugs...

Tami and Rod Hector - August 13, 2013 at 10:57 PM

PN

“ Julie, Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your mother. I remember our parents sitting around the kitchen table at your house on Kalamo Hwy. We'd be outside running around while they sat at the table talking and laughing. I don't know if you remember it or not, but one summer after picking raspberries at a farm not far from your house, I was pedaling like mad down the hill from M-78. They had just oiled the road and I hit a patch of it and slid down the road. I think I ended up in front of your house. Your dad saw me and your mother came running out. They cleaned me up (with gasoline!...it burned like the dickens), loaded me and my bike into the car and took me home. Your mother was so sweet and kind. I remember her telling your dad not to light a cigarette because I had some much gas on my clothes. My Mom always thought so much of your mother. I'll never forget her either, Julie, especially after that summer morning. May our Lord be with you during this difficult time as you and Jackie were with us when we lost Eleni.

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**Peter Nicolaou** - August 12, 2013 at 11:05 PM

JK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I thought of Shirley as my grandma growing up. She was so loving and sweet. I would run across the neighbors yard to her house all of the time just hoping she was outside. When spring rolled around I couldn't wait for Bob and Shirley to get back from Florida. I am so blessed to have known this wonderful lady. Your memories will help you get through this difficult time.

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**Jessica (Betts) Kietzman** - August 12, 2013 at 08:58 PM

SC

“ Julie...deepest sympathy to you and your family in the loss of your mom, I know she will be forever in your heart.

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**Sandi Craven** - August 12, 2013 at 04:40 PM

JS

“ Oh Julie & Jess....my heart weeps with you. I know she's with her loving husband and that reunion was so sweet. If there's ANYTHING I can do....please know I'll be there. Love Jenne

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**Jenne Smith** - August 12, 2013 at 08:32 AM

LC

“ Julie and family...so sorry to hear about Shirley's passing. There are no words that can take the pain away but keep her memory always in your heart. She was the sweetest lady and most certainly passed it down the generations. Hugs to all.

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**Laura Cooper** - August 11, 2013 at 01:55 PM

GS

“ Julie I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I am thinking of you and praying for you.

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**Gloria Schaefer** - August 11, 2013 at 11:14 AM

LB

“ Julie and Family, I was so shocked to hear of Shirley's passing. She was a great friend and neighbor and I will dearly miss her. Memories will help you get thru this difficult time. She would always tell me how proud she was if her daughter, grandkids and great grandkids.

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**Linette Betts** - August 10, 2013 at 11:10 PM

JL

“ Dear Aunt Shirley I had only one Aunt and it was you. You were a very special lady, we shared many many happy family moments and I am left with many wonderful memories. Thankfully you are at peace now, may God Bless you. I Love you. Julie and kids, you also be at peace knowing your Mom and Grandma is where she wants to be. Love you all

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**Judy Lake** - August 10, 2013 at 08:20 PM