



Martha Hermes

March 2, 1947 - July 20, 2020

Martha Christa Hermes passed away peacefully in New Port Richey, FL on July 20, 2020 at the age of 73.

She was born on March 2, 1947 in Lansing, Michigan to William and Rosemary Wackerly, and was the oldest of three girls. Martha (or “Marty,” as she became known in her adult years) attended Holy Cross Elementary School and graduated from J.W. O’Rafferty High School in Lansing, MI in 1965. After graduation, she got her first job as a telephone switchboard operator with Michigan Bell Telephone Co. She was introduced to Michael Hermes by his oldest brother, who happened to live next door, and they married in May of 1968. Together they raised three beautiful daughters, Gwendolyn Ericks, Amy Huth, and Krista Odette. After a 29-year marriage, Marty and Mike divorced but continued to be friends through the years.

While raising her children, Marty was still very active in her community. She volunteered in her three daughters' activities in school and at Holy Cross Church, where they attended as a family for many years.

She also served as President of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary at Richard Council 788 in Lansing. While a member of the Auxiliary, she was asked to start a program called Knights Daughters with her good friend, Betty Schafer. Marty and Betty helped form numerous Circles throughout the state. Mike and Marty also ran a catering business in Lansing for many years. Mike did the cooking (thank goodness!) and Marty did the planning, organizing and decorating for each event. In 1989, Marty and Mike moved their family to northern Michigan (Benzie County) where they owned “The Alpine Restaurant” for a few years. She also worked at several local businesses in the area, one of her favorites was the Ben Franklin Store, which nurtured her love of crafts.

Marty had many gifts and natural talents, one of which was painting. She enjoyed creating various landscapes, and taught art classes at many assisted living facilities in Florida. If you own one of her many paintings, you are so blessed--she didn’t give those away easily! After moving to Florida, Marty loved working part time for St. Luke’s Eye Clinic in Tampa.

She eventually became a resident at Magnolia Manor ALF, Rocky Creek ALF, and finally settled down at Brookdale Senior Living in New Port Richey, Florida. This Great Lakes girl absolutely loved the water. Many times she would just take a long drive, pull off at a beach, get her paint and canvas out of the trunk and paint for hours. The results were breathtaking. She spent her last 17 years in Florida, making many friends along the way. Due to COVID-19, it has even very difficult to have any sort of arrangements at this time. Her family is respecting her wishes for her daughters to all be together on the water in honor of her memory.

“Martha was preceded in death by her parents, and her former husband, Michael Hermes, who passed away in 2018. Martha was also very recently predeceased by her brothers-in-law, Richard Ludman and Joseph Kelly, both of Michigan, as well as by Mike's three brothers and two of their wives.

She is survived by her children, Gwendolyn Ericks of Lansing, Michigan, Amy (Michael) Huth of Odessa, Florida, and Krista (Andy) Odette of Frankfort, Michigan. Marty absolutely adored her six grandchildren: Taylor and Alexa Akers, Kayla and Tyler Huth, Madison and Matthew Odette, and her one great-granddaughter, Camryn Koval. She is also survived by her two sisters, Marilyn Ludman of Brooklyn, MI and Mary Ellen Kelly of Eaton Rapids, MI, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Comments



“ I have good memories of Martha at Holy Cross.



Sandra Bremer Stuckey - August 12, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ Mom, I miss you so much! I actually picked up my phone to call you today. I miss hearing your voice, your advice, and simply just chatting about normal stuff. Thank you for being such a wonderful mom and friend, you are forever missed and always loved.



Gwendolyn Ericks - July 30, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ Mama, you are missed more than you know. There are so many memories. You were such a creative, thoughtful and loving human That touched many lives. Your beautiful smile and the laughter are missed beyond words. My heart is broken without you. I love you

Krista Hermes Odette - July 30, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ I am so very heartbroken. I have such wonderful fond memories of Marty from way back in our school days and after. She was such a sweet, wonderful person. I feel Blessed to have had her in my life before she moved to Florida. We did have alot of good fun times back then. Love you Marty and God Bless you. You are one of God's Angel's now

Sandy (Lortie) DeView - July 25, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ She is with Jesus now, her mind is perfect again and her heart is full. Your family now has another beautiful angel watching over y'all. I can remember some beautiful laughs with Marty...at church and over a glass of wine around the holidays. Thank you for sharing her with me Amy. Her smile is forever frozen like the perfect pictures of her. I will see her in Heaven one day and can't wait to see the beautiful art she has painted for us all to see! Happy Heavenly Days to you Ms. Marty

DANYLLE GRAY - July 24, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ Marty, I only had the chance to see you a few times over the years. I remember your happy attitude and always smiling. It was clear to me you had a zest for life. I'm so sorry the last few years have been rough for you and the family. You are in the arms of Jesus now where there is no pain , just happiness. Amy, Gwen and Krista , you will all be our prayers for the weeks and months to come.



Susan Johnston - July 24, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Heartbroken.

I love you very much Mom. My world is very different now. This diagnosis took me by surprise.

I've missed seeing you since March 2nd, 2020. The last time we hugged was on your 73rd Birthday weekend, our 24th wedding anniversary weekend and the 2 year weekend when my Dad passed away. It was such a bittersweet weekend.

They say you never know when the last time you can be with someone is. Due to COVID-19, I haven't been able to hug you since then. It breaks my heart how lonely and scared you must have felt, just like ai have. I'm so thankful I was there with you the past 2 weeks.

I have so many fun memories with you. Most of them had to do with us being on the water. I wish you could have seen our little lake house Mom. You would have wanted to paint me a picture of it! I know you loved me so much, thank you for always telling me that. I love you so much Mom. Amy



Amy Huth (Hermes) - July 24, 2020 at 03:01 PM



“ My friend Marty July 2020

One of the first times I met “Marty Babes” was when I took her out shopping as she needed some new bras! Hahaha! We spent a few hours in a dressing room trying on a variety of bras that would work for her...and we laughed and laughed together that whole afternoon! The bond between us was created in the lingerie dept. of a Bealls department store! We wheeled around that store and shared some silly times together. Soon after that, we came up with the nicknames of “Lucy and Ethel” as we both could’ve been either of these characters! We often had people staring at us as we chuckled and laughed...we just thought they were jealous and wanted to be having as much fun as us! :)

I loved the times I spent with Marty, taking her out and about for shopping trips, medical appointments, lunches at our favorite Mexican restaurant with the cute waiter or trips to see the water. Each trip consisted of lots of stories, updates on each of her kids and grandkids as well as story-telling from years gone by. We talked about God, her faith and her foibles. I knew early on that “little miss spunky” had always been a bit feisty and was full of life and a bit of sass! We connected over our similar sense of humor and desire to have fun as we got out and ‘caused trouble’! :)

Marty-Babes and I never seemed to run out of things to talk about...she often asked about my family, my parents and even our dog Parker. When I could no longer take Marty out due to her immobility, I would drop by for visits and even brought Parker a few times! She loved sharing her chicken noodle soup with the pup...and got tickled when he licked her hands non-stop. I would usually bring her a sweet treat or just a cheeseburger from McDonalds which she said she often craved. (sorry if I wasn’t supposed to do that!) :)

I will miss this spirited, fun-loving, creative, passionate gal! Our little excursions deepened our friendship and gave us a sweet bond with each other. We had planned on doing some painting together, as I was so amazed at her talent...just never got around to it! What a treasure it will always be for me, to have been entrusted to take her out and about or to just be a visitor to her. Whether wearing silly sunglasses, red noses, funny hats, or bright new lipstick colors, we sure enjoyed making each other smile! Love that Lady!



Pam Otto - July 24, 2020 at 08:23 AM



“ She adored you so much Pam. You brought her so much JOY. God blessed you in my life for many reasons, and your connection with my Mom was one of them. Thank you my friend.

Amy Huth (Hermes) - July 24, 2020 at 03:02 PM



“ Martha as I remember had a wonderful smile and laugh. Sorry to hear about her passing. Hugs for all family. Gone but not forgotten. Hang on to the memories

Jim Hurley - July 23, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ We sure had our happy times together!!! We are blessed to be part of such a caring and loving family and many blessed friends ... RIP

Dan Hermes - July 23, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ Martha, as the vivacious, fun, life-of-the-Party, you were definitely a hard act to follow growing up. Know that you will remain in the memories & hearts of all those here who love you! XXXOOO

Marilyn Ludman - July 23, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ sisters are forever.....she's watching over you now. God Bless

Margie White Miller - July 25, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ Aunt Martha was always a lot of fun to be around- always up for a good laugh!! I do believe, when I was real young- at the cottage on Littlefield Lake- she was the one who made me a PB & dill pickle sandwich! Still like them them to this day ! Rest In Peace & day HI to all the Hermes boys!!

Jeannine Beachnau - July 23, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ Marty was always so much fun and at times a little devious! She will be missed.

Carolanne Amato - July 25, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ Mary Ellen lit a candle in memory of Martha Hermes



Mary Ellen - July 23, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ Martha, you were one in a million and will be missed by so many of your friends and family members. Rest In Peace (and say “hello” to Mom & Dad).

Mary Ellen - July 23, 2020 at 06:22 PM