



Mary McGraw

August 23, 1919 - January 4, 2021

Mary (Cooke) McGraw, age 101 of Westlake, OH died Monday, January 4, 2021 at the Lutheran Home after a short illness. Mary, the daughter of Henry & Catherine (McEvoy) Cooke, was born on August 23, 1919 in Wigan, Lancashire England. On October 23, 1923 Mary, along with her mother Catherine and sisters Anne & Philomena, boarded a ship and travelled to America. They joined Henry in Chicago, who came before them looking for work. After 4 months in America, the homesick Catherine and her 3 daughters returned to Wigan. Five months later, Catherine and her 3 daughters returned to America, and reunited with Henry, now in Scranton, PA. Eventually, they settled in Highland Park, MI. Mary graduated from St. Benedict High School in 1937. Upon graduation, she worked in the cash office at Kern's Department Store; and then for the Internal Revenue Service in Detroit, MI, where a co-worker introduced Mary to her brother Ambrose (Andy) McGraw. It was a match made in Heaven. They fell in love, and were married on February 22, 1944. Eventually, they settled in Detroit, MI and had 3 children, Kathy, Kevin & Colleen. Mary was a charter member of St. Gemma Catholic Church, and an active member of the St. Therese Guild. She was also a long-time member of the Gemma Guild at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat House. Mary was a Girl Scout Troop Leader for Kathy's troop and Den Mother for Kevin's Cub Scout Pack. Mary was active in all 3 of her children's high schools as a member of the Mother's clubs. After her children were grown, Mary worked in the mailroom at Mercy College in Detroit, MI. In 1981, her mother Catherine moved in with Mary and Andy. Then in 1987, the three of them moved to Colonial Acres in South Lyon, MI where they made new friends, and enjoyed their new community as members of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Catherine died in 1994, and Andy in 1997. Mary remained active, but moved to the Lutheran Home in Westlake, OH in 2016, to live near Kevin and Barb. Mary enjoyed all the new activities there, including the Concordettes choral group and the Concord Reserve Players drama group.

Mary is survived by her 3 children, Kathy (Lee) Liston, Kevin (Barbara) McGraw, Colleen (Jeffrey) Kebblish. Mary is also survived by her only granddaughter, Kristen (Casey) Fowler, and 2 great granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Hannah Fowler; and many nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her parents Henry and Catherine, her husband Andy, her sisters Sr. Anne Cooke CSJ, Philomena (Frank) Torma, Theresa (Leonard) Lewalski; and her brothers Vincent (Shirley) Cooke and Francis (Helen) Cooke. Mary was the last surviving member of her generation in her family. A relative commented that "It's like closing an amazing history book that no one wants to close." No flowers please.

Donations may be made in memory of Mary McGraw to the Congregation of St. Joseph (Sisters Retirement) 2929 Nazareth Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048; or to the Lutheran Home (Resident Activities) 2116 Dover Center Road, Westlake, OH 44145. Due to the Covid virus, the family will be having a private mass. Burial will take place at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery, Southfield. A Memorial Celebration of Mary's life will be held at a later date.

Cemetery

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd

Southfield, MI,

Comments



“ Dear Family - My parents, Jerry and June Echlin, were great friends of Andy and Mary McGraw as long as I can remember. I instantly recognized her picture as the same sweet lady I remember as a child. I remember that Mary took care of me, sister Margaret and brother Don for a whole, blisteringly hot day in September, while my parents were supervising our move to a new house. It must have been a very long day for patient Mary as she tended to Margaret (7), me (4), and Don (1), as well as Kathy and Kevin! I also remember when Colleen came around. I'm grateful that Mary had a long life surrounded by family. No doubt she, Andy, Jerry and June are catching up on all the lost years. May you all find comfort in your memories!
Fondly,
Nancy Echlin Fathallah

Nancy Echlin Fathallah - January 22 at 06:11 PM



“ Mary, was our Mothers neighbor on Pinetree floor in the Lutheran home. I, Carole and My brother Dave and sister inlaw Mary loved Mary Mcgraw! Mary, and her son Kevin and daughter inlaw Barb welcomed my mom and us with open arms next door as we admitted our mom to Pinetree lane one Easter weekend 2 years ago. I will never forget Mary McGraw's sweet smile as she told my mom hello! Kevin and Barb were there every single day, such blessings and attending to Mary, wheeling her to activities and they both kindly included asking our mom to events also, since my brother and I lived out of state and were unable to be there as often as we would like. My favorite story was told by my mom, Jane, Mary's neighbor, as the Covid pandemic closed the nursing home to family and visitors, Mary, many mornings, would wheel herself over to my mom's room, to say hello and visit! This was such a comfort to our mom.
We know Mary is home now surrounded by her heavenly family, and surely we know the lord is pleased and probably said to her, welcome home good and faithful servant!
Prayers surround the McGraw family
blessings
Carole and Ralph Paul
David and Mary Ptak

Carole Paul - January 13 at 08:16 PM



“ Aunt Mary will forever be in our hearts! Heaven gain the remaining angel from the Cooke family and they are now all reunited in eternal peace. Love to all and hope to celebrate her life in the near future.

Rebecca Lauterbach - January 13 at 05:06 PM



“ Aunt Mary was a great aunt that always made us feel welcome whenever we visited her. There was never a time that she forgot to ask about our immediate and extended families, and remind us that Theresa was always looking down with pride on Nathan and Emily as we celebrated special moments. Her caring heart and sincere kindness will be missed by all. God bless Kevin and Barb, Colleen and Jeff, and Kathy and Lee for lovingly caring for their beloved mother.
Love and prayers,
Dan and Karen

Karen Lewalski - January 12 at 05:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Barbara McGraw - January 11 at 11:46 AM



“ My condolences to the McGraw family. Mary was one of the amazing group of women that lived in the St. Gemma/ St. Paul community. She treated all the children in the neighborhood like family and didn't mind that we would hang out under the street light on her corner of Hazelton and Glendale.

A kind and loving lady, Mary will now spread her wings in Heaven.

God Bless, Jim Wagener

jim wagener - January 11 at 09:07 AM



“ A beautiful soul with a wonderful heart for others. Her light continues to shine in my memory. Prayers for the entire family, and my personal and heartfelt condolences to Kevin & Barb.

Cassie - January 11 at 12:13 AM



“ May was Little Miss Sunshine at The Lutheran Home and now she is finally Home! She was always game for any social activity and was loved by all; there is no one like her and she will be missed! We are grateful to Kevin and Barb who were just as much an active part of this community. May the Lord comfort all of you and bring back sweet memories of Mary.

Sarah - January 09 at 01:42 PM



“ I loved visiting Mary in South London with her sister, Sr Anne Cooke. It was always a joy to be with Mary.

Mary Anne Dalton' csj - March 03 at 09:59 AM