



Darlene Y. Wallace

November 18, 1932 - April 3, 2020

DARLENE YVONNE WALLACE, 87, of Chesterfield Township, passed away April 3, 2020. Born November 18, 1932 in Rapid City, South Dakota to Jack and Evelyn Fillingham. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 61 years, Captain William (Bill) R. Wallace; parents; sister Chyree Plehal and sister-in-law, Rue Fillingham. She is survived by her brother, Gary Fillingham of Springfield, TN; brother-in-law, William (Bill) Plehal of Tampa, FL; two sons, Bruce Wallace of Lathrup Village, MI and Bret Wallace of Sarasota, FL; three daughters, Kim (Greg) Bates of Lansing, MI, Tam (Jeff) Bradford of Ira Township, MI and Jill (John) Herndon of St. Clair Shores, MI; five grandchildren: Ali Herndon of St. Clair Shores, MI, Cole Herndon of St. Clair Shores, MI, Jack Herndon of St. Clair Shores, MI, Michael Bradford of Ira Township, MI, and Michael Bates of Los Angeles, CA; and great grandson Broden Bates of Los Angeles, CA.

Darlene never learned how to swim, but that did not stop her from embracing one of her favorite pastimes of boating with family and friends. She and her husband became members of the North Channel Yacht Club (NCYC) in 1991 and spent most weekends on the island. They were active members of the club and Darlene served as president of the First Mates in 2003.

Prior to boating, Darlene was an avid camper and enjoyed annual camping trips with the family. In 1966, when packing the family (husband, five kids and one dog) into a station wagon for their annual camping trip, they discovered they could no longer fit all the camping gear in the car and still have room for

the five kids. So, in a desperate search to find a small box trailer to help carry the gear, they settled for an old aluminum 14-foot boat to haul their gear. Darlene and Bill had no intentions of ever putting the boat in the water, but with pressure from the kids, the boat was launched and their passion for boating was born. They eventually bought a house on the water so they could dock their boat behind the house.

Darlene was an active member of the Catholic Church her entire life and attended St. Mary Queen of Creation Catholic Church in New Baltimore. She lived the last 6 years of her life at the Villages of East Harbor. She enjoyed singing with the Harbor Lights Choir and being a member of the Spelling Bee Club. She made many new friends. Darlene made her co-workers, friends, family and husband feel special and loved. She embraced life and always taught by example. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date due to the stay-at-home order.

Arrangements in care of Jowett Funeral Home – 57737 Gratiot, New Haven.
View obituary and share memories at www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com

Tribute Wall

PM

“ We were so very saddened to hear of Darlene's passing! She was a true best friend to my mom for decades, and she will be greatly missed!

I remember all the times my mom and 'Mrs. Wallace' would talk for hours, laughing and sharing life's stories! They were the type of friends that could share anything with each other in confidence; their greatest joys and their deepest sorrows. Now we cherish the many years spent camping together at Interlochen with countless campfires, beach tanning, boating, water skiing and sailing escapades! Such great memories! Then the later years watching our parents enjoy life together for cross country ski club, cards club, boating, music, weddings and much more! Your mom was like a second mom to me. She was always a kind, funny, loving, classy lady with a never ending smile! I will miss her and I know my mom will miss her even more!!!

Our hearts go out to you Bruce, Kim, Greg, Bret, Tam, Jeff, Jill, John and the grandchildren. May the knowing that she's dancing and gardening with your dad now, give you some comfort during this sad time!

Be safe. Be well. Be blessed! With love and sympathy, Pam, Paul and Nancy Branch

Pam McMillan - April 11, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Darlene Y. Wallace.*



April 11, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *When I think of Darlene I think of a woman who was beautiful inside and out. She always dressed with impeccable style. Anytime we held a theme party she would be sure to put just the right outfit together. Darlene loved to go on outings, , participate in our fashion shows, attend parties, and had many friends on our campus. I think she knew everyone at St. Mary's. When I would see her at church so many people stopped to greet her. She participated in videos, marketing pictures, and her lively smile and blue eyes stood out in every crowd. She touched my heart and inspired me with her kindness and gentility. I will always remember her fondly and I will miss her.*

*Carolyn Martin
Administrator
The Village of East Harbor*

carolyn - April 09, 2020 at 06:51 PM

KG

“ I and my extended family have had the pleasure of knowing the Wallace family and now the Bates family for most of my life. We met camping at Interlochen State Park when I was a teen and we have continued our friendship all these years. We were always graciously included in all of the family activities. I must admit back then I always felt a little intimidated by "Mrs. Wallace". She was a woman of few words back then. She probably had a mothers sense of what we were or could be up to. My memories are her are fond. She was a "lady"! Quiet, sweet and always had her beautiful smile and soft spoken voice.

My thoughts are with all of you Wallace's.

Love and miss you all.

Kim Garris

Kim Garris - April 09, 2020 at 10:10 AM

JL

“ "My Aunt Darlene passed this week in Michigan. None of us wanted it to happen this way. 😞She will now be at peace and with my Uncle Bill and my mom(her sister) and parents. She was Beautiful, kind, smart, witty and loving. A mom to 5! She was loved very much and we will miss her. 😞 So grateful for the beautiful memories"

Jill Law - April 08, 2020 at 12:59 PM

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Jill Law - April 08, 2020 at 12:48 PM

MA

“ *Mrs Wallace was a very sweet lady who was a joy to see from time to time. I had the pleasure to see her every year possible at her apartment for her annual flu shot then have a chat and a glass of wine. Her bright smile will be missed. Rest In Peace with the captain. - Mario*

Mario Aiosa - April 08, 2020 at 08:54 AM