



Dorothy Lesher

December 14, 1927 - June 25, 2026

Dorothy Lesher passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at the age of 98, leaving behind a legacy of creativity, quiet strength, and unwavering love for her family.

Dorothy was the beloved wife of the late Don J. Lesher who passed away in 2022. A devoted mother of Chris (the late Kathy) Lesher, Daniel Lesher, and Polly (Larry) Meerschaert. She was a proud grandmother to Erik (Cassandra) Meerschaert, Mary (Gregory) Behler, Susie Lesher, Amy (Michael) Konja, and Megan (Kyle) Gregor. and a cherished great-grandmother to Aubrey Konja, Logan Meerschaert, Henry Meerschaert, Charlie Behler, Emma Behler, Grace Behler, and Mikey Konja. Her family was the center of her life, and she took immense pride in watching each new generation grow.

Dorothy was an internationally respected needlepoint artist, designer, and teacher whose work inspired stitchers around the world. She was widely recognized for elevating counted canvas embroidery into an art form through her extraordinary creativity, innovative use of specialty stitches, and meticulous attention to detail. A sought-after instructor, she taught advanced workshops for the American

Needlepoint Guild and Embroiders' Guild of America, where her classes became known for both their technical excellence and the generosity with which she shared her knowledge.

Her imaginative designs-particularly her celebrated dragon series-earned admiration throughout the needlework community and became treasured keepsakes for countless students and collectors. Dorothy was also honored to design the official logo for the 1997 American Needlepoint Guild National Seminar in Detroit, a distinction that reflected the respect she earned among her peers. Though she never sought recognition, her artistry and influence left a lasting mark on the world of needlepoint that will continue to inspire generations of stitchers. Among her many accomplishments she made the ornament representing Michigan for the National Christmas Tree in Washington D.C.

Outside of her studio, Dorothy found her greatest joy at the family's beloved summer home in Alpena, Michigan, along the shores of Lake Huron. She treasured mornings watching the sunrise over the water, afternoons spent with the family, and evenings filled with stories, laughter, and the simple peace that only Alpena could bring. Those summers became the backdrop for a lifetime of cherished traditions and unforgettable memories.

Dorothy will be remembered as a stoic and resilient woman whose quiet strength, artistic spirit, and unconditional love shaped the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know her. She taught not only through her art, but by the example she set -showing that patience, perseverance, humility, and kindness create a life lasting beauty.

While her family grieves her loss, they find comfort in knowing she lived a long

and meaningful life and is now reunited with her beloved husband, Don.

Her legacy lives on in the masterpieces she stitched, the artists she inspired, the traditions she created, and the family she loved so deeply.

She will be profoundly missed forever remembered, and always loved, May she rest in peace.

A celebration of life for Dorothy will take place a later date.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442