



Lillian L. Adams

March 31, 1934 - February 5, 2010

For those who would like to view Lil's Funeral Service in its entirety, please click below. <http://www.funeralbroadcast.com/view.php?id\=579> Adams, Lillian "Lil" February 5, 2010. Age 75 of Sterling Heights, MI. Beloved mother of Michael Lisa Adams of Arlington, Texas and Brian Adams of Sterling Heights, MI. Dear grandmother of Brigitte Adams, Alex Adams and Samantha Procell. Predeceased by parents Morrill T. and Beatrice M. nee Hale Anderson. Visitation Monday & Tuesday 2-8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI. Mrs. Adams will lie in state on Wednesday at Villa Penna 43985 Hayes, Sterling Heights at 10:00 a.m. until time of Service at 11:00 a.m. In Lieu of flowers, the family of Lil Adams requests donations in her name be made to: Josephine Ford Cancer Center OR Sterling Heights Community Foundation. A legend in the Macomb County chamber world has passed Lillian Adams, the long-time original executive Director of the Sterling Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, passed away February 5, 2010 at 11:15 p.m. "Lil" as she was known to many, was a resident of Sterling Heights, and she left her mark on the businesses and communities the chamber served, both at personal and professional levels. Known and respected by many, she began her chamber career at the then St. Clair Shores Chamber of Commerce where she worked on a part-time basis for several years prior to accepting the challenge of managing the one-person office of the "Northwest Macomb Chamber of Commerce," located in Utica, 1976. While the chamber underwent several name changes and office

locations over the many years, Lil saw the membership grow from the 67 that came with her then-new position to the 1, 500 members. Always humble, kind and gracious, she could also be tenacious, and these qualities earned her the love and respect of many who knew her, and she was able to positively influence politicians at the local, county, state and national levels. She promoted her membership, from the smallest "mom-and-pop" operations to the large corporations; she advocated, supported and defended for each and every one of them. She personally considered herself to be, among other things, a "Business Advocate, Small Business Consultant, Community Facilitator, Economic Development Director and Community Ombudsman." To many, she was simply, "Friend." On her 30th anniversary with the Chamber, Lil wrote, "I'm often asked how I have managed to "hang-in-there" in what is considered a high-risk career. I truly believe that there is no secret to longevity if you just put yourself in the other guy's place ... smile, even if you don't feel like it ... have a genuine love for people and really care about them through both their terrors and triumphs. And yes... you have to love your job!" Lil shared her expertise with others as well. These are just some of the groups, committees and organizations she participated in: Founding Member, Macomb County Community Growth Alliance, Trustee Henry Ford Hospital Northeast Facilities, Macomb County Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals, City of Utica Community Service Award, Utica/Shelby Twp. Kiwanis Club, Charter Member Sterling|Utica/Shelby Arts Council, Past President, Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, Sterling Heights Brownfield Development Board and EDC Corp., M-59 Task Force, Metropolitan Growth and Development Corp., Board Member Otsikita Girl Scouts, Utica Com. Schools Foundation Distinguished Service Award, Charter Member of the Sterling Heights Community Foundation Board of Directors, Shelby Township Community Foundation, "Michigan Works" Board of Directors, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Foundation, Stevenson High School SOS Community Service Award,

Macomb County Partnership in Planning Committee, MCC Technical Training Center M-Tec Board, Host of Sterling Heights Television's "Council Connection" and "Meet the Candidates" programs, March of Dimes Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year award and Board Member, Macomb Community Corrections Board Member Drug Court Steering Committee, Sterling Heights Citizens Advisory Committee, Focus Macomb Futures Initiative. Following her retirement from the everyday routine of leading the chamber for 32 years in May of 2008, she remained active on several community and civic boards and committees, and served as editor and columnist for the Regional Connection, the chamber's monthly news magazine. Chamber directors also created a new award, the Lil Adams Award, in 2009 to honor the legacy and character of Lil The inaugural winner was Clark Andrews, a long-time director and officer of the chamber, and he was recognized for, "Humbleness, a Caring Spirit, and Exemplary Long-term Service to Our Chamber, Our Communities, and Our Fellow Man." At the time of her retirement, she was honored by a host of business and community leaders, chamber members and friends. The City of Sterling Heights also acknowledged her contribution to the growth of the community by presenting her with a tribute, unanimously adopted by the City Council: ... "A resolution recognizing Lil Adams on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce, for her 32 years of service and her significant contribution to the growth of the City of Sterling Heights." • "Lil Adams served as Executive Director of the Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce for 32 years; • She has been the catalyst for many businesses moving into Sterling Heights, creating thousands of new jobs for our residents; • She has shown her commitment to the community going above and beyond her chamber duties, being involved in such projects as petition drives for the state's initial expansion and development and subsequent repair of Van Dyke Road; • Through Ms. Adams, the Sterling Heights Area Chamber of Commerce became a steady supporter and partner of several Sterling Heights/Chamber

projects

including Sterlingfest, Sterling Heights Business Appreciation Day and the Manufacturer's Directory; • In addition to her work with businesses, Lil Adams has served, since 1994, on the Community Foundation, the group that helps fund programs that strengthen the city's wide range of recreational, educational and cultural activities; • A Sterling Heights resident, Lil Adams has always taken an active interest in her community through her chamber position and through her volunteer work making Sterling Heights a place where the quality of life and business climate rank No.1;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Michigan recognizes Lil Adams, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce, for her 32 years of service and her significant contribution to the growth of the City of Sterling Heights." Lil's legacy will continue, as the chamber moves forward absent her personal input and guidance, the values, work ethic and genuine caring for our members, our communities and our citizens will continue on a daily basis. Sterling Heights Mayor Richard J. Notte and long time friend said "She was one hell of a lady." "She built that chamber from scratch to one of the best chambers in Michigan. Sterling Heights has lost a great friend and supporter of the community." Pat Lehman, a long time friend and Sterling Heights Community Relations director stated, "Lil" was so admired and loved by all. It was an honor to be a close friend to her. When she put her mind to a project, she moved mountains. Lil gave Macomb County its quality of life. I will miss her terribly.

Tribute Wall

BH

“ Mike, Brian & Family: I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of your dear Mother and our friend. I will always remember Lil attending hockey games when we were kids, and then later in life through the SHCC. Lil was such a joyful lady and I will miss her friendship. God Bless, Bill Hulet & Family

Bill Hulet - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ Lil was a legend! With her big smile and willingness to assist, she will be greatly missed. My prayers go out to her family and friends. She will surely be missed by all.

Valiena A. Allison - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Brian and Family, We were so saddened to hear of your Mom's loss today in the paper. Lil was really a remarkable lady and I am so glad that I had a chance to know her. Our deepest condolences.

Jennifer, Alan & Drew Yakubesan Jennifer Sheets - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Grandma Lil. Mary just told me. My deepest condolences to you Brian, Brig and your family. with love, LLisa Gonyeau Bachmann

llisa bachmann - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Uncle Mike & family and Uncle Bids & Midgy, I wish I knew what to say... Grandma lil, makes my ❤️ smile! She took me in when my family moved down here. I will remember even with a damaged noggin heh all the great times we had; swimming at the pool, looking at the pictures in the antique view finder haha for the millionth time and Gizzy following her EVERYWHERE. Even though I wasn't a blood Grand child Grandma lil treated me like I was, she did SO much for me and I will NEVER forget it. I'm sorry I couldn't make it. I love y'all with all my ❤️. ♦️ HUGS-n-KISSES ♦️ Jet

Jenette - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ HI Brian and Mike - Wish we could be there to honor your great Mom. I was on the board of the Chamber when she was hired..I remember wondering why she would want the job -- and look what she did with that job and the community. I remember all the good times we had. We will never forget her. Hope we will see you this summer when we return to Mich. Love - Donna and Dale Diener

Donna & Dale Diener - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ HI Brian and Mike - Wish we could be there to honor your great Mom. I was on the board of the Chamber when she was hired..I remember wondering why she would want the job -- and look what she did with that job and the community. I remember all the good times we had. We will never forget her. Hope we will see you this summer when we return to Mich. Love - Donna and Dale Diener

Donna & Dale Diener - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My sympathy and condolences goes out to Lil's family. Lil impacted my life by giving me a chance to work at the chamber, which led to a 16 year career in sales. She was always fair and supportive and gave me reasons to respect her. I will remember her for the rest of my life! May peace and grace be upon her soul.

Doug Mazzola - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My regrets to Lils Family I met Lil back 20 years ago What a diomond of a Lady She was like no other Her class out won all Her smile and the way she cared about others and her help to mankind .She will never be forgoton Her Legion will live on Marge LeMay Sterling hts

marge LeMay - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ With Deepest Sympathy from the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals. Lil was a model of professionalism and mentor to chamber executives across the state for many years. Her career of influence can be felt in the men and women leading their business communities today, particularly in the metro-Detroit region. She was a remarkable lady who will be missed by many.

Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Mike & Brian, Very sorry to hear about your mother. There is nothing more difficult than losing a mother. May her memories be forever in your hearts. May she rest in peace.

Cindy Mlynarek - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Brian, I will miss your mom very much. She brought joy & fun to so many people. I regret I'm unable to attend the wake due to my confinement for illness. Lil will be a treasured memory for the rest of my life.

Rick Regan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Brian, Mike & family We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and love are with y'all during this time.

Jen, Ro & Nathan Ganeshasundaram - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Brian and Mike, Our office family has lost it's "mom". Even though she had recently retired....we still felt her presence and looked to her guidance. How quickly time goes by, having known Lil only these past 15 years, it seems much longer. I will miss her always and pray that your families healing time is spent with good stories and photo's for it is the way should would want it. My love to you all.

Linda Colton - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ "Remarkable" doesn't even scratch the surface when describing Lil. She was a force and so much more. Full of life, laughter and love. Count us among the many who will miss her greatly.

James & Melissa Current Gerety - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Lil and I met when we were appointed to the Macomb County Commission on Women. She was so helpful and informative. I'm saddened at her passing. My condolences to the family.

Sue Keffer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“*Gordie Howe Hockeyland. Ipperwash. Street hockey on Frazho. So many wonderful memories. Mrs. Adams was a second mom to us. She was so full of life - intelligent, funny, someone who knew how to get things done. I know I speak for the entire DenBaas family when I say our lives have been fuller for having known her, and we will miss her so much. Lil - we will love you forever.*

David DenBaas - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GD

“*Just today, I recieved word from my family that Lil had gone to be with our Lord. My mentor, travel companion, girlfriend, 2nd Mom, Spirit of our community, I would only hope to have a legacy similar to hers within the community I reside. At the end of the day we are all meant to be a legacy to the next generation. Her boys should be proud. Anyone would want her/their DNA...keep it going in her honor!*

Gail Duncan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“*I was so deeply saddened to hear of Lil's passing. I feel so furtunate to have known her for so many years. I admired her both personally and professionally and like so many others we were all drawn to her by courage, strength, warmth and her smile. Macomb County has truly loss a special lady. Her absence certainly will be felt by many. My heartfelt condolences go to her sons and their families. Donna Dean*

DONNA DEAN - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CA

“Lil was a truly remarkable person. She sewed the seeds of the chamber and nurtured and cultivated them toward making the Chamber what it is today. She was always a "people" person who always made people believe in themselves and helped them reach their potential. She was very humble with a great sense of humor. She got things done when no one else thought they were possible. I was so flattered and humbled to receive last year's inaugural "Lil Adams Award", knowing the qualities she personified. She was truly one of a kind who will be missed by all her family and legions of friends. Her imprint on this region will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. They should cherish the memories of all she touched. God bless you Lil--you were a great leader and a wonderful friend.

Clark Andrews - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“Lil was an amazing woman. Kind hearted and a heck of a sense of humor. I have so many great memories of her and look forward to having another martini with her in heaven!

Dawn & John Drozd - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MR

“Mike, Brian and family, Our love and thoughts are with you guys in this time of sadness.

Mel & Maritza Roberts - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“All our love and sincere condolence on your loss. Mark, Teresa, and kids

Mark and Teresa Duncan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *Lila will be missed. She will always be remembered for Her contribution to the Sterling Hts. Chamber and it's members.*

Rich Gallop - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Oh how Lil will be missed so much, I have always admired her for all that she has done for Sterling Heights. I will miss her hugs and smiles, and her witty humor that we all loved. Lil is an Icon and a true friend.*

Cathy Burg - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *Lil was like no other woman I've known. She was such a professional woman with a personal touch! She was a good friend and will be greatly missed! My prayers are with her family at this difficult time.*

Angie Freeman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ *Brian, Mike & Family our prayers are with you. I will truly miss Lil...she's the one who gave me the opportunity to start my sales career 7 years ago. She always gave me encouragement and appreciation. I will miss her smile and warm personality. Sincerley - Gina*

Gina & Dave Rieck - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Brian, Brigette, Mike & Family, You have my deepest sympathy and know we will keep her memory alive! She was an inspiration and a rock of a woman. She was like a second Mother to me for a lot of years and will always remember what she taught me in life. I will keep her close in memory for the rest of my time here on earth. May you find the strength to get you through the next few days. Bob & I will miss her forever. Love, Patty

Patty Le Duc - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ She was one of a kind and no one can replace her. Sandy & Mike Hennessey

Sandy Hennessey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Ted & I were saddened when we received the phone call informing us of Lil's passing. We feel so fortunate to have known her over the years spent together in the Kiwanis Club of Utica. Lil was admired by all. She was a special lady and loved by all who knew her. Her passing will make for a void in the club. Lil was a big part of all the clubs funtions. Before Ted and I retired and moved to Florida I had the pleasure of working with Lil at the functions. I enjoyed our talks and the time I spent with Lil. Our condolences and Blessing to Lil's family during this difficult time. Shirley & Ted Medlin of Dunnellon, Florida

Shirley & Ted Medlin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM