



Margaret Edna Jackson

March 11, 1929 - November 10, 2021

Margaret E. Basey was born March 11, 1929. She was the oldest of 5 Basey children, and the daughter of Bill and Clodah Basey. Her siblings were Ilene, Bill, Jean and Tom. She was educated through the schools in Royal Oak, Michigan, graduating from Royal Oak High in June 1948.

She was always an avid sports fan. She and her Dad had season tickets to Michigan football games.

She started working for Michigan Bell shortly after High School. While there, she met a WWII veteran, Ralph Jackson. Many years later, she was with family tailgating for a Michigan vs Michigan State football game. Her grandson Steve Jackson was a student at Michigan, and also writing for The Michigan Daily (Michigan's student paper). She told him the story of how she and Ralph began to date: "In the autumn of 1948, a sweet young lady in Royal Oak named Margaret Basey was preparing to go to Michigan Stadium for another Football Saturday with her father. Unfortunately, that week he could not take his eldest daughter to see the Maize and Blue. So Margaret went in search of a ride to Ann Arbor. Once she arrived at work, she asked a young World War II veteran named Ralph Jackson that handled her supply orders to join her, and he happily agreed.

Things went so well that they bought season tickets together in 1949, and

they were married before the 1950 campaign. Thirty-one years later, their first grandson - Steven James Jackson - was born."* (credit to The Michigan Daily, November 4, 2002.)

Ralph and Margaret were married June 3, 1950. They were blessed with four children, Carol, Jim, Bob (deceased 2014) and Pat. The children came in rapid succession, all born between 1952 and 1957. Margaret initially was a stay at home Mom. But, a full generation ahead of her time, she soon returned to work, initially as a seasonal retail hire at J.L Hudson's department store, working evenings at the old Northland Mall, sometimes as a secretary. Eventually, she settled in as an employee of the Royal Oak Public Schools.

Margaret's jobs never got in the way of her roles as wife and Mother. She took care of ALL of us, and never missed a child's activity.

She always loved the outdoors, especially the water. As a child, the Basey clan would camp at one of many Michigan inland lakes. In 1960, Ralph and Margaret purchased property on Long Lake in Cheboygan County. There she taught her children to swim, and spent endless hours in the boat hauling water skiers.

She was a great Mother. She could be tough when necessary, and also be a lot of fun. As her children grew, they got to see the fun side more and more often. When they were in college, and Ralph had a bowling tournament, Margaret would gather with her children for a weekend party, usually at Ferris State University, where Carol and Bob were students. We'd all go to the Alibi bar for some beer and dancing.

She and Ralph were soul mates. On the surface, they were very different. He was a big guy, gregarious, tender but sometimes temperamental. She was little, on the quiet side, and steady as a rock. But, they always enjoyed each

other's company, and did most things together.

Some folks mistook Margaret's quiet nature and thought she was timid. Nothing could be further from the truth. For example, as they were approaching retirement, Ralph was uncertain about how long he should work. Margaret had retired at the end of the school year, and was ready to enjoy the freedom from work. As winter approached, she told Ralph, "I'm heading south this winter. You are more than welcome to join me". Ralph got the message and retired.

They had about 15 wonderful years together in retirement, spending winters in New Port Richey, Florida, and summers at the cabin on Long Lake in Cheboygan county. They had friends and churches in both places. Children and Grandchildren were routine visitors.

Ralph and Margaret's love for each other, and commitment to each other, has been an inspiration to her children.

Sadly, in November 1998, Ralph became ill and died. It left a hole that was difficult to fill, but Margaret was, as always, steady as a rock. She traveled to Florida for winters until 2003. Then, she sold the property in Florida and became a year round resident of Royal Oak.

Her retirement life after Ralph's passing was still active, and her children and grandchildren played a larger role. There was still a great deal of fun at the lake, and elsewhere, as evidenced by the tailgate story.

Eventually age and health issues led to her moving to assisted living in Troy. She still made frequent trips to the lake (now owned by Jim) to enjoy her children and grandchildren.

In 2017, Margaret's health got a little worse. Carol and Patricia had moved out of state, and Jim had retired and was spending winters in Arizona. Mom decided to move to Oregon, to assisted living close to Patricia. She has been enjoying life there since. Until Covid intervened, she was a regular worshipper at Hope Lutheran in Woodburn, Oregon. She still loved to be near the water, so trips to the river and the coast were very joyful. Moreover, since her granddaughters and two of her great-grandchildren live nearby, family gatherings were another source of joy.

No life lived long and well can be summarized in a short biography like this one. But the most important thing about Margaret needs to be said. She was a Christian lady, who accepted Christ as her savior. On more than one occasion, Margaret shared her certainty of salvation with her family and her friends.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, November 18, from 2 - 8 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Funeral service will take place Friday at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery in Troy.

Gifts may be directed to Hospice Association of America, Hope Lutheran Church in Woodburn, Oregon, or a charity of your choice.

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 18. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

NOV 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Edna Jackson.*



November 17, 2021 at 07:19 PM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Margaret Edna Jackson.*



November 17, 2021 at 03:03 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Edna Jackson.*



November 17, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss Jim and your entire family! Cathy welcomed you mom in with open arms! Take comfort in knowing their both together!*

Dawn Dallaire - November 14, 2021 at 02:06 AM

JJ

Thank you, Dawn!

Jim Jackson - November 21, 2021 at 07:55 PM

RT

“ *Thank you so much for sharing your mom with me. I loved being able to spend the time with her. And I love all of you like family. My condolences to you all. Love Rhonda*

Rhonda Todd - November 14, 2021 at 01:50 AM

JJ

Thank you, and God's blessings to you and yours, Rhonda!

Jim Jackson - November 21, 2021 at 07:56 PM