



Marilyn Ann Gruber

May 8, 1928 - April 19, 2015

A faithfully caring daughter, staunchly loyal sister, captivatingly patient wife, tirelessly evolving mother, and utterly doting, cheerfully indulgent, and entirely devoted grandmother, Marilyn Gruber died on Sunday, April 19, after-would you believe it?-her heart gave out.

Born in 1928 to Paul and Ellen Dwyer and brought home to Mark Twain St. in Detroit, Marilyn had three brothers-younger twins Patrick and the Hon. Paul (Joan), who survive, and older Dr. William (Bea), who doesn't. She attended St. Mary's of Redford through high school and graduated from the University of Detroit with a B.A. in English. In 1950 she married Walter H. Gruber, who still survives. Over the course of 64 years the couple lived and worked for short stints in Buffalo, New York, and Huntsville, Alabama, before settling down first in Oak Park, later in Detroit, and most recently, since 1997, in Lathrup Village.

Marilyn worked raising three children-Mike (Kathi), Mary Jo (Dr. Bruce Cicone), and Janet (Dr. Bill Ventimiglia)-and then made a career of library work at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills and St. Bede's Grade School in Southfield. She took pride in helping 6 and 16 year olds alike to discover the joys of reading as well as the rewards of researching for information. She always had a way with words and a gift for self-expression. She absolutely "loved to pieces" her six granddaughters-Emily (Sean Keck), Caitlin, Anna,

Sarah, Carly, and Dani. With them she truly lived to listen and encourage, never to judge or scold.

In addition to keeping a lovely cozy home downstate, Marilyn brought her unique creative touch to a cabin in northern Michigan where she spent much time in virtually all seasons with Wally and family and whatever dog(s) might be in the household picture. In 1984, much to the surprise and delight of the rest of the family, Marilyn and Wally bought their first boat. This Chris Craft (as was each of its Chaparral successors) was their "beach retreat" and for many years they took great pleasure in inviting friends and family to cruise the waters of Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan, setting course for Leland, Beaver Island, the Cheneaux, the Inland Waterway, or wherever else their fancy moved them. Marilyn loved watching her granddaughters Up North-whether jumping off the stern swim platform and then basking in summer's sun or skiing and sledding in winter's snow.

Marilyn had a weakness for potato chips (she could never eat just one), which might explain her penchant for doing stairs and walking vigorously and perpetually re-arranging furniture. And whoever held stock in pink lipstick made out like a bandit: Marilyn couldn't get enough of the stuff.

Memorial visitation Saturday 10 a.m. until the time of the memorial Mass 11 a.m. at Our Mother of Perpetual Help (aka Fatima), Oak Park. In lieu of flowers, since Marilyn wished to be cremated, donations can be made in Marilyn's name to "Mercy High School" or "Our Mother of Perpetual Help-St. Vincent de Paul Society."

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Oak Park
13500 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Memorial Mass

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help ~ Oak Park
13500 Oak Park Boulevard
Oak Park, MI 48237

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I met Marilyn just once back in about 1948. A few years ago I located her and we corresponded by phone and e-mail. She helped me fill in much family history. Now I am saddened that I did not get the tree finished in time to get it to her. My sympathy to all the family. I will get the tree out to you this year.

John McCrank - June 04, 2015 at 10:29 AM

CK

“ Holding the Gruber family in my heart and prayers. I remember Mrs. Gruber as a kind and gentle soul at Mercy. The loss of a mother is like no other. It is evident that she raised a wonderful family. You are blessed to have had such a beautiful person in your lives, and now in your memories and dreams.



Clare (Bruder) Kolevar - April 26, 2015 at 10:48 AM

CK

Clare (Bruder) Kolevar '80

Clare (Bruder) Kolevar - April 26, 2015 at 10:51 AM

AC

“ Mrs Gruber made her periodical room my Mercy 'Happy Place'. I suppose our crew did get ourselves ushered out regularly. Though always with her warmth, a twinkle in her eye and her little smile; so our little cluster returned, free mod after free mod! Her guidance in the Career Room was invaluable, she encouraged and aided unique explorations of who we were and who we might be meant to be.

Farewell Mrs Gruber. You gifted so much to so many. Thank-you for making your space a refuge and a home.

Annette (Plant) Coleman '80

Annette Coleman - April 24, 2015 at 08:15 AM

CD

“ Mr. Gruber, We were so saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Gruber. When we attended Mercy High School, we knew her as the "magazine room" lady. She always had a smile and was willing to help us anytime on any project. If it was important to us, it was important to Mrs. Gruber. We grew to love her even more after our mother, Mary Jane Legg, retired from Mercy and continued her friendship with you both.. You were so helpful to us when mom moved to northern Michigan when her health failed. We can never thank you enough for all the visits that you made to Grandvue Medical Care facility in East Jordan to see mom. Mom would tell us all about them and she was so happy after your visits. You really made a difference and we are forever grateful to you both. I believe that our mother and the "magazine lady" are busy cataloging all the periodicals in that heavenly library and having fun doing it!

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Legg's daughters

Christine Davis - April 23, 2015 at 09:23 AM

CH

“ I remember Mrs. Gruber so well! She was always kind - even when ushering(kicking) a small group of us out of the periodical room for talking too loudly/making too much noise. Unfortunately, she had to do this too often! ;)

Cynthia Horn Helson '80

Cynthia Helson - April 22, 2015 at 03:22 PM