



Martha Sly

September 3, 1982 - July 15, 2025

Martha Ellen (McGovern) Sly
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Martha Ellen (McGovern) Sly passed away unexpectedly on July 15, 2025, in Royal Oak, Michigan, at the age of 42. Born in Berkley, MI, Martha brought joy and creativity to every place she called home, from Port Angeles and Tacoma, Washington, to her return to Michigan.

Martha was a vibrant and tender soul-joyful, energetic, and deeply sensitive. She had a quiet gift for holding space for others, offering warmth and understanding to those around her. Her laughter was contagious and will echo in the hearts of all who knew her. Her love for nature was profound, and she found peace and inspiration in the outdoors-whether hiking mountain trails or visiting the zoo, one of her favorite places.

A covert yet deeply talented artist, Martha expressed herself through painting and poetry, often capturing the beauty and emotion of the world around her. Her creative spirit touched those lucky enough to know her closely.

Martha adored her niece and nephews-Etta and Lucas Franklin, and Connor and Maxwell McDaid-who brought light into her life. She was preceded in death by her loving parents Mary and John McGovern. She is survived by her

loving sisters Katie Franklin, Colleen Fairbanks, and Peggy McDaid; brothers-in-law Kevin McDaid and Dustin Franklin, and her cherished friends.

Martha's absence leaves a deep ache in the hearts of her family, who will miss her dearly and remember her for her spirit, sensitivity, and joyful presence.

A celebration of Martha's life will be held on August 24, 2025, from 6pm-10pm at the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo, a place that held special meaning to her. All who knew and loved Martha are welcome to join in honoring her memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to spend time in nature, support the arts, or simply hold space for someone who needs it-just as Martha so often did.

Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **24**. 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM (ET)

Detroit Zoo~Wildlife Interpretive Gallery
8450 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Martha Sly.

August 22, 2025 at 08:09 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Martha Sly.



August 22, 2025 at 08:09 PM



“ When my brother and I were little, Aunt Martha would always volunteer to come watch us when our parents were busy, and during those times, she would take us places like the beach and zoo. Often, when we went to Grandma and Grandpa's house, she'd take us on bike rides and would make something that would've been an everyday thing feel special. She would even take our dog on walks when we weren't home. She never asked for anything in return; she just showed up when someone needed something. She once said at Grandpa Jack's funeral, "There's a time for everything, a time to be born, and a time to die, a time to weep, and a time to remember." She had a truly warm heart and cared so much about the people around her, and how other people felt; you couldn't escape it. This shows the type of person Martha was: Loving, compassionate, kind, and selfless. It's hard to imagine things without her. Rest in peace, Aunt Martha. We'll forever love and miss you. Love you, Connor

Connor McDaid - July 27, 2025 at 10:40 PM

HT

“ When I first met Martha she was being hired where I worked at the Blackbird Coffeehouse in Port Angeles. I thought “wow, she is so cool” and she was the coolest! She was so much more too. She was a perfect fit for the job. We soon become buddies. I enjoyed her company so much. Martha was deep feeling, kind, supportive and could make me laugh. She was incredibly creative. In her art and baking. She once made sweet potato biscuits with smoked paprika butter, I will never forget how good they were. We shared a deep love for animals, walks and yoga. I remember how much she loved being an aunt. She was there for me and it was a friendship like I’d never known. I always wanted to be there for her. For those of us that feel everything so deeply the world can be a brutal place. I admired her strength and courage. I missed her so much when she moved away. We would meet in the middle of our addresses as often as we could. She loved Central Market in Poulsbo. We both loved The Butcher and the Baker in Port Gamble, they had the best baked goods. We went to Mexico together in 2017. One of my favorite life experiences. I’ve always hoped we would get the chance to do it again. Martha gifted me her 1999 Toyota Corolla so many years ago and I will have it as long as I live. I am so grateful she came into my world. Rest in peace now Martha Ellen, my forever friend. Love always, Heidi

Heidi Thompson - July 27, 2025 at 04:46 PM