



Mary Lou Fitch

January 3, 1944 - July 16, 2019

Mary Lou “Louise” Fitch, 75, of Clear Lake, died Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at Oakwood Care Center in Clear Lake.

Funeral services will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20, 2019, at First Congregational Church, 923 Buddy Holly Place, Clear Lake, with Pastor Scott Sokol, officiating. Following the service, Mary Lou’s body will be cremated and inurnment will be at Memorial Park Cemetery in Mason City at a later date.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, July 19, 2019, at the church in Clear Lake.

Family suggests memorial contributions to Humane Society of North Iowa in Mason City or First Congregational Church in Clear Lake, and may be sent to Dave Patton, PO Box 94, Aurelia, IA 51005 or Scott Patton, 126 Olde Heritage Way, Woodstock, GA 30188.

Mary Lou was born January 3, 1944, the daughter of George Oliver and Mary Frances (West) Beach in Sioux City, IA. She moved with her family to Des Moines, IA, Ottumwa, IA and Albert Lea, MN before settling in Mason City, where she graduated from high school. While in school, she was very active in the band; playing the flute, organ and piccolo.

Mary Lou met Meredith Willson in 1960, at the Hanford Hotel during a music recital, where he played her flute and they had pictures taken together. In 1962, as a senior in high school, she was proud to take part in the world premier of the movie, *The Music Man*, and meet all of the celebrities on their planes, including Arthur Godfrey who flew his own plane.

Mary Lou earned her registered nursing degree from St. Luke’s Methodist School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids, IA. Following graduation, she moved to Des Moines and worked for Dr. Gene Peterson at the Iowa Head and Neck office on Ingersoll Ave. for 18 years.

She married William B. Patton of West Des Moines, and to that union two sons were born,

Scott and Dave Patton. She later married Rick Fitch on April 16, 1977, in Des Moines. They shared a life in Des Moines, but also shared their love for the Iowa State Cyclones and being around water, so in February 1995, they moved to Clear Lake for their semi-retirement. Mary Lou worked as the Clear Lake Elementary School Nurse for 18 years and then began a second career as a nationally certified pharmacy technician.

Not that she had any spare time, but when she did, Mary Lou liked crocheting, Danish embroidery and cross stitching. She was also very active in the Clear Lake Yacht Club over the years and was a caregiver to many in Clear Lake. After being diagnosed with breast cancer the first time, she became involved in the Reach for Recovery Program and Cerro Gordo County Relay for Life. It came back after 15 years, but she never ever gave up trying to conquer that “little bugger.”

Left to cherish Mary Lou’s memory are her two sons, Scott (Angela) Patton of Woodstock, GA and Dave (LeAnn) Patton of Aurelia, IA; five grandchildren, Lauren, Alex and Will Patton and Lexie and Annika Patton; step-children, Rick D. (Lindy) Fitch of Indianola, IA, Deb (Craig) Roberg of Montrose, CO and Scott (Connie) Fitch of Woodward, IA; step-grandchildren, Alicia (Nick) Mogren of Des Moines, IA, Mike (Jillian) Roberg and Becky (Justin) Mashburn, both of Colorado, Shanda (Ben) Lewiston of Des Moines, IA, Kelly (Thomas) Selgrade of Indianola, IA and Leah Fitch of Urbandale, IA; seven step-great-grandchildren; brothers-in-law, Jon (Joyce) Fitch of Green Valley, AZ and LaVerne (Jane) Friedman of Albert Lea, MN; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Rick; and sister, Peggy Adams.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

11495 265th St.

Mason City, IA, 50401

Events

JUL **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

19

First Congregational Church

923 Buddy Holly Pl, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

JUL **Funeral Service** 11:30AM

20

First Congregational Church

923 Buddy Holly Pl, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

Comments



“ I went to St; Lukes with Mary Lou and remember her enthusiasm and humor. In 'talent' shows, she was our 'Nurse Tillie" in a short inappropriate uniform, to much make up, nylons with holes and a giant syringe! I hope heaven is ready for a whirlwind.

Janet Kratzer stephan - July 20 at 08:41 AM



“ ML was one of the most effervescent people I've ever met. Her laughter and energy filled every room she walked into...she also taught me how to let things go with a fun swear word. We shared a birthday and I hope that means we share the same warrior mentality. She never gave up and was always fighting the good fight. I loved her very much and will miss her. <3

Katie Anne - July 19 at 04:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Fitch.



July 19 at 12:54 PM



“ Betty and Linn Yost purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mary Lou Fitch.



Betty and Linn Yost - July 18 at 08:21 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Fitch.



July 18 at 05:28 PM



“ 15 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels - July 18 at 04:15 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Fitch.



July 18 at 03:43 PM



“ 64 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels - July 18 at 02:11 PM



“ Mary Lou was a great friend, she always opened her home when I had my husband in the hospital in Mason City, She always stayed in touch to see how my grandson Lincoln is doing. We spent a few days together last fall and went to see Lincoln in Ankeny. We always visited like we did in nurses training and had not been apart for years. I will miss our talks. She called at least once a week to catch up. When I didn't hear from her the last 10 days I knew it wasn't good. She fought a good fight and never gave up. RIP Mary Lou.

JoAnn Coakley - July 18 at 10:44 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mary Lou's passing. She had a very upbeat attitude and approach to life. She was very helpful and supportive when my Mary was fighting cancer last fall. Rest in peace.

Mike Heston - July 18 at 09:40 AM



“ The Mary Lou I knew epitomized the meaning of the word optimism. She, no matter what the circumstances, always looked forward not dwelling on her current situation. When I talked with her she would always make me feel important. Her sense of humor and understanding of her immediate surroundings would make me feel at ease which led to usually a long and lasting sense of well-being. I will certainly miss her. She surely shall Rest In Peace.



Bob Peterson - July 18 at 05:47 AM



“ So sorry to hear this!Mary was such a good neighbor to us and we will miss her dearly at the lake.She always had a great upbeat attitude even after her cancer returned!!Marv and Dee Lonnevik

Marv and Dee Lonnevik - July 17 at 11:43 PM



“ Dave/ Scott and families, feel so blessed to have Mary Lou as a friend for the past 25 yrs.
Will miss her on our naughty nurse gatherings , she had a passion for life and great strength. She was very proud of her family and you are all in my prayers, Anne Marie Vaughan

Anne Marie Vaughan - July 17 at 10:59 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers for Mary Lou and her family. A strong, courageous and inspirational soul. Peace

Fitch's - July 17 at 09:38 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Lou Fitch.



July 17 at 09:05 PM



“ I am very saddened to learn of the passing of my Mohawk classmate & friend, Mary Lou. We stayed in touch with emails through her many cancer episodes. I have admired her strength & courage in facing each one with the determination to always continue to fight. Sending my sincere condolences to all her family & friends, Sue Ann Fischbeck Reisdorph/Franklin NC

Sue Ann Fischbeck Reisdorph - July 17 at 08:33 PM



“ She was a darling Lady ~ Full of grace and charm. She will be missed. I am so glad she had the love of her little doggie at the end.

Jane Barlow - July 17 at 06:09 PM