



## Dr. Mary Ellen Obert, MD

April 12, 1926 - January 9, 2017

Dr. Mary Ellen Obert, MD, age 90, of Holland and formerly of Fargo, ND, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 9, 2017 in Holland, MI. She remained at the home of her daughter and son-in-law until the end as she had wished. Mary Ellen Newton was born April 12, 1926 in Ellwood City, PA. The youngest of four children of John Holliday and Jeanetta Newton, she grew up on a dairy farm. She was always an avid reader, even from a young age. From the time she was a young girl, when she was ill with Scarlet Fever, she decided that she wanted to become a doctor. She followed through on those dreams and graduated from Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, and Temple University Medical School in Philadelphia, PA in 1950, where she was one of four women graduates. She interned and completed her residency in Internal Medicine in Pittsburgh, PA. It was there that she met her future husband, Gerard Joseph Obert. Gerard was also a physician. Together they set out for Rochester, MN, where they finished training and began their family. Eventually, they settled in Fargo, ND, where they raised their five children and lived for 41 years. Gerard preceded Mary Ellen in death in 1996. Mary Ellen worked as a physician until 2000. She worked at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Fargo, ND for many years and retired from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where she worked as campus physician for 15 years. After retirement, she continued to volunteer her medical services at the Salvation Army Clinic for the homeless in Fargo, ND. She always identified herself as a physician, even after retirement. Mary Ellen was a dedicated mother as well,

and raised five children with Gerard. They all survive her; David (Magdalena) Obert of Hamilton, NJ, John Obert of Wilmette, IL, Clare Obert and her children, Mary, Matthew, Ellen and Debra of Minneapolis, MN, Anne (David) Derfler and their daughter Kathryn of Austin, TX, and Dr. Barbara (Ken) Puzycki and their children, Rachel and David, of Holland, MI; in-laws, Paul (Charlotte) Obert, Arthur (Carol) Puzycki, David (Janet) Puzycki, Mary (John) Seeterlin, Mark Puzycki, Jim Puzycki, several nieces and nephews, and many friends. Mary Ellen moved to Holland, MI in 2004 and lived with her daughter, Barbara and her family, for the past 12 years. She came to enjoy Holland as her second home and developed many friendships there. Special friend, Jean Mast, was a devoted and tireless companion to her. "I have fought the good fight. I have won the race. I have kept the faith." A visitation is planned for 9:30-10:30am on Saturday, January 14 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland, with a funeral service following at 11:00am, also at the funeral home. Burial will be at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Fargo, ND. Condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Mary Ellen Obert, MD*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I am so sorry to hear of the Obert Family's loss of their Mary Ellen. She was a role model, a mentor, a co-worker but most and best of all a friend of mine for many years. I will cherish her always and will keep you all close in my heart and soul. Helen Harris, Duluth, MN 1 february 2017"*

**Helen Harris** - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"It is with great sadness to hear the passing of a community icon. I knew Mary Ellen through her husband, Gerry. He was the commander of the 311th Evac Hospital in Fargo, Minot and Bismarck and we all loved serving under him. Both of them were servants whether for our country, our community or our Lord. They have left a great legacy!!"*

**Deborah Nelson** - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Obert Children, Please accept my condolences on the loss of your mother. I remember her well - a positive, dedicated women who cared deeply about her children's educations. I looked forward to visiting with her at conferences at Shanley and know she was proud of all of you. She, and all of you, will be in my prayers."*

**Cathy Schwinden** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NE

“We are saddened by the death of Dr. Obert. She was a pioneer and a caring physician who will be missed. We will cherish the Christmas notes we received from her so many holiday seasons, including this one. May her family and friends find comfort in all the good she did for so many people and in the many good memories that she left with us. Please accept our sincere expression of sympathy. Nick and Donna Ellig  
Moorhead MN”

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**Nick and Donna Ellig** - January 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MO

“She stood in the doorway of her home in Fargo, North Dakota. On Woodland Drive the trees bent and swayed in the wind with some of the trees permanently bent due to being pummeled by storms from years of storms. Although there stood such a tree in the front yard of that home, inside the house there was nothing but warmth and smiles to greet you. I stood there as a stranger in love with their son David. I migrated over to Mary Ellen whose smile lit up her face and her eyes. She was a "mom". Someone I'd never known in my life. She was a mother bustling around the kitchen getting dinner ready and I was the special guest. She offered me a cup of coffee and I tried my hardest not to spit it out. She made the worst coffee I ever had. Not only would it grow hair on your chest but on any other available part of your anatomy. From that first meeting and throughout the years that I've known her, Mary Ellen was "mom" to me. I loved her more than words can describe. As she aged and as I continued to battle my own personal medical demons, we occasionally would call each other out of sheer boredom. Sometimes she called because as a knitter, she would get herself so tangled up in directions that went haywire on her pair of needles that she needed extrication help. All those calls we made to each other were 90% full of laughter and news of each one of the other kids. Mary Ellen was an incredibly intelligent woman who behaved as though the information you gave her about this and that, was brand new to her. It wasn't. She was humble and sweet and non-pretentious. Out of her beautiful eyes one could see the love she had of people. In particular, she loved her children and went far and beyond herself to help each one of them to the best of her ability. The giving of a heart such as hers, was a gift to us all. God loaned her to us and now called her back. I couldn't be there in the end. It breaks my heart. Thank you God for the gift of this beautiful mom.”

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**Magdalena Obert** - January 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AL

“My sympathy to you and your family, Barb. So sorry you had to say goodbye to your mom.”

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**Ann Leclerc** - January 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CM

“My sympathy to all of Mary Ellen's family. As a neighbor to my parents, Bill And Bernice (Bunny) Braseth, on Woodland Drive in Fargo, I well remember your mother as a good friend to them. I especially remember her smile and happy personality. I know how hard it is to lose a beloved mother, and I'm sure it's the same for you all. May you find comfort through your many good memories.”

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**Claudia McCulloch** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“There are so many memories of Mary Ellen and Gerry that entwine my love of raising boys and having the support and encouragement of neighbors. These memories are also the models that I believe allowed my family to become neighbors, citizens, and caring compassionate members of our communities. For you - Mary Ellen was the best and it is my joy to remember these and a host of others: It begins with a ready smile and warm laugh. They include and are surrounded by stories of a wild black dog that loved everyone and greeted them from his perch in an amazing tree on Woodland Drive. One by the way that is there still in part. The meals - especially of lamb - a dish that we did not understand or know prior to the Oberts - provides another gift of grace. The warmth of a doctor, who would go out and buy a additional and different instrument so that children's ears could be examined (remember Mary Ellen worked with adults) because as they both said - it was the family/neighborly thing to do. Barb, you personally added the comfort and security of an older sister and babysitter that was loved and trusted as an extension of the family. I know she knew she was loved. We have missed her all these years and have often shared memories that have caused us laughter and joy. God is blessed to have her in his angel band and I bet Gerry was at the gate to welcome her home. Much love, Nancy and Neil Jordheim”

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**Nancy Jordheim** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CM

“What a beautiful human being. I am sure her goodness lives in all who knew her. My deepest sympathies to her family and friends. We should all live such a full and rewarding life. From Carol McAndrew, Music director at the church of her daughter, Dr. Barb Puzycki”

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**Carol McAndrew** - January 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TM

“*I am so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. She will be missed. I will be praying for your family during this difficult time.*”

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**Tricia Miller** - January 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DP

“*Deepest sympathies to your family. My mother (Wanda Palmisano) cherished her friendship with Mary and always spoke fondly of her. God speed.*”

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**Dan Palmisano** - January 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM