



Mary Joan Ruffner

September 8, 1930 - August 2, 2015

Mary Joan Ruffner, passed away August 2, 2015 after a brief, courageous journey with Leukemia. Survivors who were so special to her include: daughter Jan and David Raterink, of Zeeland, sons Neil and Karen Ruffner, of Zeeland, and Eric and Jayne Ruffner, of Holland. Her treasured grandchildren: Brant Raterink of Grand Rapids, Jennifer Raterink of Grandville, Anna and Kurt Lehnert of West Olive, Christopher Ruffner of Zeeland, Daniel Ruffner and fiancée Alyssa Pindar of Denver, Colorado, and Erica Ruffner of Holland, and two adored great-grandchildren Jaxtyn and Kiptyn Lehnert. Her sister Dorothy Helyer of Anaheim, California, and many treasured nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Dan Ruffner in 2011 and her brothers and sister-in-laws William and Leila Schlarb, Keith and Nored Schlarb, Donald and Delores Schlarb; brother-in-law Jack Helyer and niece Carolyn Simons. Mary was born on September 8, 1930 in Wyatt, Indiana, to Herman and Grace (Keyser) Schlarb. Calling Zeeland home for nearly 50 years, Mary was a devoted member of Second Reformed Church where she served as Elder, on numerous committees and was instrumental in bringing Children in Worship to the church where she also served as teacher and advisor. Mary worked at Bennet Wood Specialties since 1972 as an "indispensable office manager and bookkeeper" until her recent retirement. Mary's family meant everything to her and she lived each day as a celebration. She was truly a beacon of love to all who knew her. The Ruffner family is grateful for the compassionate care given to Mary by her doctors,

Holland Hospital Home Care nurses and hospice care.

A worship service celebrating her faith and life will take place at 11:00 am, Thursday, August 6, 2015, at Second Reformed Church, 225 E. Central Ave., Zeeland, with Rev. Karsten Voskuil officiating. Visitation will be 5-8 pm, Tuesday, and 1-4 pm, Wednesday, in the Gathering Area at Second Reformed Church. Burial be in Zeeland Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Holland Hospital Home Care. The family is being served by Yntema Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Joan Ruffner*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"I am so sorry to hear of your mom's illness and passing. My parents and I are former neighbors, living on the corner of Lincoln and Wall. Your mom was always so kind and thoughtful. She would often stop to chat at the farmer's market, commenting on our flowers. She always had something sweet to say. I will miss seeing her. Your family is in my thoughts."*

Jolanta Rynsburger - August 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Thinking and praying for all Mary's family today. I only met "Grandma" once but I could tell she was a special lady. I know Jaxtyn and Kiptyn will miss her deeply. Anna has always talked about how special Grandma was. Our sincere sympathy goes out to her whole family. May the promises of our Father comfort you today."*

Mark and Faith Engel - August 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *""Mary used her God given gifts to bring His love and joy to all who had the privilege to work with her and call her friend. My prayers are with you'."*

Char VanBeek - August 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NS

“*What an outstanding lady! So very glad to have known her! Love and prayers from South Carolina.*”

Nancy Smith - August 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“*Another of this earth's saints gets her forever angel wings! So sorry family... I'll never see or eat another PBJ sandwich without thinking of her.*”

Jim Bouwens - August 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CD

“*Thinking and sending special thoughts and prayers for my very special friend !! Carolyn DeBoer and Nick, Emily, Keagan and Kaylee Cornell !!*”

Carolyn DeBoer - August 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“*Our thoughts and prayers with all of you!! You mom and grandmother was a very special lady!*”

Kristi Haverdink - August 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BW

“*My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*”

Beverly Witucki - August 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PM

“*What a great and special lady she was. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*”

Pat McMurry - August 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM