



Colleen Mary Gilligan

September 22, 1929 - November 3, 2019

Mom, you finally made it into the obituaries! Your favorite column to read, and it finally includes you, and your "good story" as you liked to say.

Colleen Mary Gilligan, age 90, passed away on November 3, 2019. She was preceded by husband Richard in 2013. Survived by her children, Michael (Cheri), Pat (Kim), Kathy (Dave), and Peggy (Brian); grandchildren, Ryan, Patrick, Ian, Grant, Chris, Erin, Jeff, Ben and Paul; great-grandchildren, Ruth Anne, Mary, David and Kalayna.

Besides being the best dessert-maker and best wife of a fisherman, mom worked at Birch Grove Elementary school for many years, taking lunch money from unsuspecting school children. At one time she loved playing bridge with friends, and more recently loved a good steak on the grill, any excuse for breakfast at a restaurant (with HOT coffee), a COLD glass of water, her Minnesota Twins and Vikings, a tasty glass of vino, a good musical at Chanhassen Dinner Theater, her many friends and family members, traveling to Arizona, San Diego, the Bahamas, Ireland and Trappers Landing on Leech Lake, and loved ANY time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Mom, you were an angel and will be so very much missed.

Mass and reception are planned for spring- details forthcoming.

Comments



“ Colleen was mom's dearest friend and was in part responsible for the matching up of my folks (who were married for 53 years before dad's passing.) Colleen and mom spent childhood years together and then after they married, Dick and Colleen were my parents dear friends and favorite bridge partners. For years they would alternate homes on a Saturday night and fix each other dinner, playing bridge until late into the evening. When I was young, she came to every stage performance my siblings and I were in. I treasured her like a 2nd mom. It was always a joy to meet up with Colleen for lunch. Sometimes I brought mom, sometimes it was just Colleen and I. She was such an inspiration for how to age gracefully - perpetually upbeat with a positive outlook on life - independent and sharp right up to her last day on earth.

My mom was heartbroken to hear of Colleen's passing. She will be dearly missed by both of us. Our deepest condolences to her wonderful children and extended family. She was lucky to have such a great support system. I have no doubt she is now in heaven with Dick and family members who have gone before her. I will always remember Colleen as a bright spot in both mom's life and mine.

Kathy Vilendrer (and Marge Kremer)

kathy Vilendrer - November 10 at 12:04 PM



“ May Colleen be in the hands of the Lord. Over my whole life, I always loved when Colleen came to visit with my Mom. Colleen was always so cheerful, so positive, such a wonderful heart and kind words. More recently, I was staying with Mom when Mom had hip surgery and Colleen came to visit. She's in her 80s by this time and she hops into the big comfy chair like a 15 year old girl, then crosses her legs in her lap up on the chair! I break out laughing, "Colleen, how are you even doing that?" Colleen throws up her arms, shrugs her shoulders and laughs with me, "I don't know, I've been doing it my whole life!" Then, of course, as the conversationalist that she is, she quickly changes the subject to ask about my life in Los Angeles. Young in heart, young in mind, young in spirit. The woman never really grew old. Such an inspiration.

All my love to the family,
Nancy

Nancy Kremer - November 07 at 09:24 PM