



Mary Lou Otness

September 20, 1932 - April 28, 2020

Otness (Elfstrom), Mary Lou Age 87 of Edina, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on April 28, 2020 after a decade long battle with dementia. Preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Robert; survived by children, Kim Otness (Ken Kixmoeller), Mark Otness (Karin Wentz), Kathy O'Neill (David); grandchildren, Katie & Susie Kixmoeller, Karl & Peter Otness, and Conor, Robby & Matt O'Neill. Preceded in death by parents, Karl William and Gertrude Elfstrom; brothers, LeRoy, Wally, Don, Chuck and Jim. The only daughter of Swedish immigrants, Mary grew up in Frederic, Wisconsin with five brothers who she lovingly accredited with making her tough as nails. She worked as a switchboard operator while in high school; upon graduation she continued her work in Minneapolis where she met and married Bob in 1955. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and daughter. Mary had a heart for caring for those in need and those she loved. She took on the lifetime job of caring for her husband and his Type 1 Diabetes helping him to live a long, full life with the disease. Mary was at her happiest when surrounded by family; especially her seven grandchildren. She could always be found tirelessly working in the kitchen preparing everyone's favorites including the world's best Swedish meatballs, beef stroganoff, strawberry angel food cake and her notorious pink dip. She extended great love to her pets as well, always frying the first egg of the day for her collie and turning on the heating pad for her long line of cats. At heart, Mary was a small town girl and had many fond memories of her time living in Frederic. There she loved time spent chatting

with neighbors and enjoying a good strong cup of coffee made with well water while gathering around the farmhouse table. A memorial to celebrate Mary's life will be scheduled on a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at jdrf.org/donate/. Condolences: Washburn-McReavy.com 952-920-3996

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Kim - don't know if you'll remember me from Richfield Lutheran many years ago, but when I saw your mom's obituary I wanted to extend my sincere sympathies to you and your family. Losing a loved one to dementia is so hard, and then to lose them completely during this strange and difficult time is even harder. I always thought your mom was so elegant and gracious - I recognized her picture in the paper even before I saw the name. And the pictures you have on line are so sweet. I loved the one with you on the steps - the resemblance to your mom is striking. Please know that you are in my thoughts at this sad time. Wishing you and your family peace.

Cindy Mertens - May 05, 2020 at 03:24 PM

PK

“ So sorry for your loss, Kim and family. I only met your mom after she was affected by dementia, but I could still sense her strength of character. The pictures are a wonderful way to see how she was in her earlier years, interacting with the grandkids and enjoying a good party! That's a very nice tribute to her. It is harder in this current time to mourn together, but please know that warm thoughts are with you and your family.

Patricia Kohls - April 30, 2020 at 11:31 AM

OF

“ 60 files added to the album *Photos of Mary's Life*



Otness family - April 30, 2020 at 10:32 AM