



Mary Jean Shirley

February 13, 1936 - September 8, 2022

Shirley, Mary J. (Hanson), age 86, passed Thursday, September 8, at Methodist Hospital holding hands with husband Jim, daughter Ann, and son John after suffering a severe stroke.

When asked what she "did", she replied with modest pride, "I'm a nurse". Loving, caring, dedication, commitment, resolve, and attention-to-detail describe nurse Mary. She carried those qualities as wife, mother, daughter, and community leader.

She was born in Fergus Falls, on February 13, 1936, the daughter of Earl C. and Agnes E. Hanson and sister of Janet, who are now deceased and brother Charles G. (Pat) Hanson. She is survived by James C. (Jim) Shirley, Ann E. Shirley (David Smrcka), John C. Shirley (Françoise) and grandsons, Andrew and Nico Shirley.

In 1958, she graduated from St. Olaf College with a BS-RN degree and taught psychiatric nursing at Fergus Falls State Hospital.

In May of 1959, she married Jim, her husband of 63 years. They lived near the Camden Clinic where she worked as office nurse for several years even after they moved to their first home in Hopkins. She was a stay-at-home mom when Ann and John made them a family. When Chapel View Nursing Home

opened, she began 30+ years on staff there retiring in 2001, as Director of Human Resources.

Mary served her church, Gethsemane Lutheran, in a variety of leadership capacities including Stephan Ministries, the Gethsemane Foundation and was the first female Chair of the Church Council. She was the go-to person for a long list of other tasks there. She was a perfectionist thanks to a keen mind and an attention to detail.

Mary received special recognition at the end of her 50 years of leadership as an election judge for the City of Hopkins. She was a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The family cabin at Ottertail Lake where she and Jim met held a special place in her heart. She was a voracious reader, skilled knitter, quilter, seamstress and a computer whiz in her jammers, bathrobe, and slippers. In all this service, she was an A+ wife, mom, sister and daughter. We were privileged to be part of her life.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

Services at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 715 Minnetonka Mills Road, Hopkins, at 11am November 28th, with reviewal at 10am. In lieu of flowers, Memorials preferred to Gethsemane Lutheran Foundation or the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Hopkins)
715 Minnetonka Mills Road
Hopkins, MN 55343

Memorial Service

NOV **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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715 Minnetonka Mills Road
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