



Darlene Ann Richards

February 10, 1942 - April 13, 2023

Darlene Ann Richards, 81 passed away at Munson Medical Center on April 13, 2023, from congestive heart failure. Her parents, Earl and Delores Yagle, three brothers; Terry, Tom, and Roger Yagle, all preceded her in death. Her survivors include sisters, Gayle Roe and Marilyn Keely; brothers Daniel and Robert (Bonnie) Yagle all of Traverse City; children James (Susan) Richards of Brighton, MI, Colleen Richards, Kimberly Bonner, and Melanie Richards, all of Traverse City, and grandchildren, Christopher and Kaitlyn Richards and Ivan and Jared Bonner as well as several in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Darlene was an extraordinary person living an ordinary life. She had an innate sense of fairness, was a friend to everyone, and had a rare gift for making strangers feel unconditionally welcomed. She had a razor-sharp wit, a warm laugh, and a gentle heart and was the first person to bow out of the limelight while quietly serving others.

She found joy in nature and was an avid birdwatcher, keeping her feeders full to attract as many species as possible. She especially loved Cardinals, Orioles, and Hummingbirds but Pileated Woodpeckers always fascinated her. She also loved animals and had several cherished pets during her lifetime. Overcoming childhood poverty, she lived her life frugally but willingly showered her immediate and extended family with thoughtful generosity. She especially loved family gatherings and adored her grandchildren.

Darlene started cooking at age nine out of necessity and was an excellent

cook and an astute baker. She had a talent for making delicious food and created a special cookie recipe that became a favorite among both family and friends.

She liked many different genres of music but loved country music the most and spent nearly every Saturday evening listening to her favorite country music radio program.

The family plans to have a celebration of life in the future and urges donations to one of more of the following charities in lieu of flowers: the American Diabetes Association; the American Kidney Fund; or the American Heart Association.

Arrangements provided by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I loved spending time with Aunt Darlene. I can still hear her voice and infectious laughter. My mom always considered her a sister, not an in-law. As my mom got older and didn't drive, she still would check on Darlene to see if she needed anything and that she was ok. She will be missed but I know she is in a better place. My last conversation with her, she was tired, winded and told me how hard it was just getting to the doctors. Sending hugs to friends and family.

joyce jastrem - May 13, 2023 at 09:23 AM

ME

“ Melanie lit a candle in memory of Darlene Ann Richards



Melanie - April 22, 2023 at 06:31 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album Darlene



Melanie Richards - April 21, 2023 at 07:26 AM

SH

“ Sorry for your loss. She will be missed very sweet aunt. Prayers for the whole family

Shelly and Larry lenz and family

shelly - April 19, 2023 at 01:42 PM

CW

She was my cousin, BUT was more like a sister. She, Gai, and I found joy in each others company and managed to keep aunt Deloris and our grandma Rose on their toes.. I miss her smile and still think of her often. I hope they have roller skates in heaven.

Connie White - February 07, 2024 at 12:34 PM