



Mary Louise Mitchell

April 11, 1935 - April 30, 2020

Mary L. Mitchell, age 85, wife of the late William Mitchell, of Douglassville, PA, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at Keystone Villa in Douglassville. Born on April 11, 1935 in Homestead, PA, she was the daughter of the late John P. and Agnes (Bresnai) Rock.

Mrs. Mitchell was a graduate of Pennsbury High School. She was employed as a medical records librarian for the State of Pennsylvania. She had worked at the Youth Development Center and Eastern State School and Hospital in Bucks County, followed by Pennhurst State School and Hospital and the Southeast Pennsylvania Veterans' Center in Spring City. Throughout her career, and beyond, her organizational skills rivaled that of just about anybody. She was tedious and methodical, and was one in a million that would always read an operating manual in its entirety. Mrs. Mitchell loved to craft and sew, and especially loved sharing that gift with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed listening to classical music, theater, and Broadway productions. Her thoughtfulness and kindness were her best qualities.

Mrs. Mitchell is survived by five children, Ruth A., wife of the late James Brobst of Reading, PA, John C. Friedhofer of Spring City, PA, Mary Beth, wife of John Lukas of Springfield, GA, Sharon, wife of James Dovidio of Thornton, PA, and Susan Friedhofer, companion of Mark Barto of Eagleville, PA; eight

grandchildren, Erin (Brad), Sara (fiancé Jon), Travis, Diane (Sean), Jared (companion Lexi), Allen (Erin), Steven (Michelle), and Ryan; twelve great-grandchildren, Bryce, Evelyn, Jedi, Brandon, Lillith, David, Danielle, Kyle, Stella, Alesha, Kailyn, and Brayden; and three brothers, J. Patrick, husband of Virginia Rock of Holland, PA, Thomas Clair, husband of Eileen Rock of Todd, PA, and Robert, husband of Annmarie Rock of St. John's Bay, Prince Edward Island, Canada; and many nieces and nephews.

A public memorial service will be held in the future. In the meantime, the funeral service will be held virtually. Please contact Cattermole-Klotzbach for further information. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Seasons Hospice Foundation, 6400 Shafer Ct., Suite 700, Rosemont, IL 60018. Condolences may be made by visiting www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com. Arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Royersford, Pennsylvania.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ So sorry to hear about Mary Lou. The few times I saw her she was always so pleasant in spite of her physical problems. I had the privilege of playing the organ when she married Bill Mitchell. I'm sure she left a legacy of wonderful memories. My sincere sympathy to the family.

Doris Selwitz

Doris Selwitz - May 06, 2020 at 03:44 PM

SF

Thank you for the nice memory

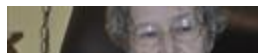
Susan Friedhiofer - May 06, 2020 at 11:02 PM

“ Before I met my sister-in-law, Marilou, for the first time, my husband Bob shared his childhood memories of her. He remembered his big sister as a popular high schooler, who was always well dressed and who knew how to dance. Most impressive of all, Marilou had taken elocution lessons! His later memories of her centered on her children, grand-children, and great grand-children and what a lovely, kind, fun-loving bunch they were. When I finally met Marilou in person at my first Rock family reunion in Todd, Pennsylvania, I didn't get to observe her dance skills, but I experienced first-hand her warm welcome to me, her gentle manner, and her unfailing kindness, and I met many of her children, grand-children, and even a couple of great grand-children. And, true to form, Marilou was stylishly dressed.

One of my favorite memories took place on the occasion of Marilou's 80th birthday. Bob and I were so impressed that her children and their children pulled off such a big surprise for Marilou and organized such a lovely excuse to get the family together. The warm summer day, the peaceful riverside setting, a ginormous cake and colorful balloons, four generations of Rocks, and the look on Marilou's face when she realized what was going on – just priceless. All done in the relaxed, low-key, “get 'er done” style of Marilou's family. It was a jewel of a day.

What I will remember most about Marilou though, is not her style (well-dressed even when camping!), or her intelligence (we always talked books), or even her gallantry (she just kept going, especially when the going got tough). What I will remember most about Marilou is how she treated people. She was unfailingly kind. And I don't think that was the elocution lessons. I think that was just who she was through and through. I will miss her. May she rest in peace and be well-remembered by her beautiful family and by the many people whose lives she touched.

Anne Marie FitzGerald (wife of youngest brother Bob)





Bob Rock - May 06, 2020 at 10:15 AM

SF

Thank you Anne Marie, mom loved you!

Susan Friedhiofer - May 06, 2020 at 11:05 PM

BR

“*Over the last several months Mary Lou has had several critical episodes. Somehow she always rallied - taking many by surprise. Not I. My assumption was that if she was in the middle of a good book she would make it through to finish the book. Despite all the health challenges of her life I don't think she considered anything out of the question.*

After we moved to Prince Edward Island she reread Anne of Green Gables. She was very interested in the Island and always asked for more pictures and wanted to know about the whales and seals. Last fall, I told her she would love it here, and we wished she could visit. Her response was typical: "Don't count me out. I have been checking and there are a lot of tour buses going from here to PEI." I believe my sister never thought that such an undertaking was not possible. Indeed, I doubt she considered much was not doable in her life.

To a life well lived and a sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend who was well-loved and who will be dearly missed.

*With much love,
Bob (youngest brother)*

Bob Rock - May 06, 2020 at 09:19 AM

SF

Thank you Uncle Bob.

Susan Friedhiofer - May 06, 2020 at 11:07 PM

AP

“ *A very sweet, open minded woman that I had the pleasure of serving as a driver while she was a resident at Walnut Woods retirement community in Boyertown PA. She was always ready and raring to go on a nice day where she would board the bus and I would take her shopping or she wanted to get apples at Shanesville Orchard for her specially made applesauce. My thoughts and Prayers to the family.*

Amy Pirolli - May 05, 2020 at 10:07 AM

SF

Thank you for that wonderful memory, mom certainly enjoyed every outing she was able to participate in at Walnut Woods and often spoke of the kindness she experienced from the staff.

Susan Friedhiofer - May 05, 2020 at 01:12 PM

JR

“ One of my earliest memories was being walked to my first day of kindergarten by my big sister Marilou. I guess I was five years old so it must have been in the fall of 1943. My recollection of those World War II days in Homestead was of a town filled with men wearing military uniforms. I carry a vivid picture in my mind of marching proudly to my first day of kindergarten in my little blue sailor outfit holding my big sister’s hand.

Looking back now I realize that Marilou would have been only about nine years old on that day, probably dropping me off on her way to her fourth grade class at Saint Mary’s. Of course those were very different times, but when you think of it, that’s a lot of responsibility for a fourth grader. Our parents were confident they could rely on nine-year old Marilou to deliver their five-year-old son to his first day of kindergarten.

Marilou continued in her competent reliable way as we all gradually grew up and after we went out into the world in our various directions. Anybody who lives through 85 years is certainly going to encounter challenges and crises during all those days. Marilou encountered more than her fair share of challenges and crises. She always endured and prevailed, and she always emerged with her humor and good will and generous spirit intact. She set an example for all of us. You can see her influence in the spirits of her children and of the families of her children. It’s a gift we will carry with us and pass along.

Little Brother Patrick

JohnPatrick Rock - May 04, 2020 at 09:59 PM

SF

Thank you for the wonderful memory Uncle Pat, mom certainly loved her brothers!

Susan Friedhiofer - May 05, 2020 at 01:13 PM

BM

“ *Brother and Wife Bob / Anne Marie. purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of Mary Louise Mitchell .*



Brother and Wife Bob / Anne Marie. - May 03, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Mitchell .*



May 03, 2020 at 06:02 PM

ER

“ *Eileen Rock purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Louise Mitchell .*



Eileen Rock - May 03, 2020 at 01:15 PM

BF

“ *Brother Patrick and Ginny and all our family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mary Louise Mitchell .*



Brother Patrick and Ginny and all our family - May 03, 2020 at 12:11 PM

LH

“ *Many memories she was a beautiful woman loved to see her on holidays and birthdays she always made me feel at ease will miss her dearly*

Laurie Hennessy - May 02, 2020 at 06:43 PM

ZL

*Sincere sympathy to all! Your mom was a sweet kind lady! May you cherish the memories of time spent with her. Thoughts and prayers,
Zonia*

Zonia Lamont - May 03, 2020 at 07:58 AM