



Mary Louise Branagan

June 4, 2020

Mary Louise Branagan, nee DeOre, of Springfield, Virginia, formerly of Jupiter, Florida, and Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, passed into eternal life on Thursday, June 4, 2020. The daughter of the late James Carmen DeOre and Theresa Mary Cuneo DeOre, she is survived by her daughters Mary Pat (Mike) Litwin and Christie (Chris) Palmer, grandchildren Eileen Palmer, Meghan (Eric) Felton, Kelly Palmer, Rob (Shauna) Litwin, Andrew Litwin, Sean Litwin, and Mary Caroline Litwin. Also survived by sister-in-law Margaret O'Connor, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her loving husband of fifty-one years James Burke Branagan, and siblings Loretta Albine, Anita DeOre, James DeOre, Lawrence DeOre, Marcella Campbell, and Raymond DeOre.

Mary Lou grew up in Connellsville, Pennsylvania in a loving, close family and enjoyed spending time with her many siblings. She attended Immaculate Conception elementary school and high school, then California State Teacher's College. Upon receiving her teaching degree, she taught grades three and four for many years in the Connellsville and Pittsburgh area public schools. She met Jim Branagan at a dance at the University Catholic Club and they were married at St. Paul 's Cathedral in Pittsburgh in November 1957. They settled in Mt. Lebanon for many years. In 1991 Mary Lou and Jim moved to Jupiter, Florida full time and enjoyed their wonderful friends at Jonathan's Landing. They experienced many happy retirement years there. In recent years, Mary Lou relocated to Greenspring Village in Springfield, Virginia to be close to Christie, Chris and their family.

Mary Lou was a fantastic and fun mother and grandmother. She enjoyed raising her two daughters and was so proud of and thankful for her seven grandchildren. Her hobbies included playing cards, golfing, boating, and especially singing and dancing. Mary Lou embraced life and was always active and busy with her large extended family or with her cherished friends.

Words cannot even begin to express the deep, heartfelt gratitude and love that our family

has for all of the amazing staff at Greenspring's Garden Ridge Assisted Living who became a second family to us. "Lou Lou" loved them all, and we are tremendously grateful to them.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place in Virginia. At a later time when gathering in groups is appropriate, there will be a celebration of Mary Lou's life. Burial will then take place at the Queen of Heaven Cemetery in McMurray, Pennsylvania.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mary Lou may be made to one of two funds at Greenspring Village: the Benevolent Care Fund (a tax deductible donation that helps to support residents whose funds are depleted) or the Staff Appreciation Fund (a non tax deductible fund that is distributed annually to each member of their caring, loving staff.) Donations can be mailed to the Greenspring Village Philanthropy Office, 7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

Comments



“ For the past five years, I have played jazz music once a month during lunch where Mary Lou stayed at Greensprings. She quickly became one of my favorite people because her knowledge of the Great American Songbook was vast and deep. Several times, I tried to stump her with songs from the fringes of the repertoire, but she would always win. I loved her for that, and because she was always effusive in her praise and gratitude for my music, which made me happy beyond words. Even after her stroke, she would sing along as best she could, and the way she looked at me when I played let me know that she still appreciated the music.

Her favorite songs were "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and "Embraceable You", the latter of which would always cause her to swoon and say, "How did he know [that was my favorite song]?" Well, Mary Lou, I am a performer by nature, and when I know my audience has a favorite song, I don't forget that. While I would completely change my program every month (I play around 20 concerts per month), I would never skip those two songs, just for her.

I love what I do, and meeting great, loving people like Mary Lou is one of the main reasons. I will always think of her when I play "Embraceable You", and I know that for a fact because that has been happening now for the past couple years.

Eric Highsmith - June 15 at 02:27 PM



“ Thank you Eric for your heartfelt note. I don't have the words to tell you how much your concerts meant to mom. You allowed her to be herself and continue her passion for music and song. Your descriptions are perfect and made me smile and cry simultaneously. Somehow, mom seemed ageless when you played. She could feel your love and loved you back. I wish we could have just more of those lunch concerts with her but when we can gather together, we'll all sing for her. With love and thanks for all the Branagans to you dear Eric. Thank you for being such a good friend to my dear mom.

Christie Branagan Palmer - June 15 at 07:31 PM



“ I will always remember spending time - and a lot of it! - with your family! Deep Creek Lake, water sledding, cards (I learned Canasta from your mom), sleepovers, and lots of great meals. Your mom was great! Please take care and know that your mom lived a long, loving, full life!
Donna Anderson

Donna M Anderson - June 13 at 02:44 PM



“ Thank you Donna. Your note brought back so many fun memories! We were so blessed to have mom live such a long life.

Christie Branagan Palmer - June 15 at 07:19 PM