



Mary Jo Lempiainen

July 6, 1947 - September 14, 2023

Mary Jo Lempiainen, 76, of Spirit Lake passed away Thursday, September 14 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls surrounded by her family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held one hour prior. Private family burial will take place at St. Margaret's Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com

Mary was born July 6, 1947, to Frank and Frances (Navara) Svoboda in Jackson, Minnesota. She graduated from Lakefield High School and earned her associate degree at Minnesota West Community College in Worthington. On April 19, 1969, she married Dan Lempiainen in Lakefield, Minnesota.

Mary worked as a bookkeeper for Village West, Coca Cola, and then at Walmart for the final 25 year of her career before retiring in 2014. Mary was an active member at St. Mary's Catholic Church where she attended Mass and volunteered. She also enjoyed delivering meals on wheels, and volunteering at blood drives, election polls, and at the Nature Center. Mary was an avid reader and loved to talk to and learn about people, friends and strangers alike. We know everyone who knew Mary will agree that she loved to chat with people! Mary's greatest loves were spending time with her

grandchildren, and secondarily her kids!

Left to cherish Mary's memory are her husband, Dan; daughter Amy (Tim) Kloss of Mankato, MN (grand children Lauren (Colton) Lusty, Sydney and Brooke Kloss); son Jon (Cori) Lempiainen of Ames, (grandchildren Gaby, Riley, Danny and Joey Lempiainen, Keaton and Shelby Peterson); son Ben (Tiffany) Lempiainen of Owatonna, MN (grandchildren Hannah, Natalie, and Abbey Lempiainen); and sister Cathy Johnson of Spirit Lake. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Patricia Svoboda.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **19.** 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **19.** 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Tribute Wall

GE

“ *Lefty, so sorry to learn of the passing of your wife Mary and the children's mother. I think of you frequently.*
Gary & Carol Everding

Gary & Carol Everding - January 26, 2024 at 04:35 PM

SF

“ *Stephanie James & Family lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Stephanie James & family - September 29, 2023 at 09:01 PM

RT

“ *Ray And Diane Tucker lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Ray and Diane Tucker - September 19, 2023 at 09:38 PM

CL

“ *My sympathy to Mary's family.*



Connie Lange - September 18, 2023 at 11:37 PM

SD

“ *Shari Dykema lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Shari Dykema - September 18, 2023 at 10:05 PM

GG

“ *Greg Gamble lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Greg Gamble - September 18, 2023 at 08:32 PM

GG

Dan, Amy, Jon, Ben, and family: I'm so sorry for your loss. Mary was the best!

Greg Gamble - September 18, 2023 at 08:34 PM

BM

“ *Jon I was so sorry to hear about your mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Barbara Meyer - September 18, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.*



September 18, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.*



September 18, 2023 at 02:48 PM



“ *She was such a genuine, caring person. Thankful to have known her.*



Marilyn Strickland - September 18, 2023 at 02:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.*



September 18, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ *Mary has been a cherished volunteer with our Dickinson County RSVP family, always offering to help at area blood drives or to be a Pen Pal for our area students... she will be greatly missed. Sending our condolences to Mary's family and friends at this difficult time.*

DeNeitt VanDenBroeke, Dickinson Co. RSVP - September 18, 2023 at 11:49 AM

JC

“ Jeff And Linda Christoffer lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen



Jeff and Linda Christoffer - September 18, 2023 at 07:10 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.



September 17, 2023 at 09:30 PM

MO

“ I noticed that she was always so encouraging to other workers at WalMart. Blessed be your memories of a fine lady.

Martha Oskvig - September 17, 2023 at 07:37 PM

LI

“ So sorry for your loss

Linda - September 17, 2023 at 01:39 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.



September 17, 2023 at 11:29 AM

DB

“ *Deb Bockman lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Deb Bockman - September 17, 2023 at 11:17 AM

CH

“ *Christine A Hinkeldey lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Christine A Hinkeldey - September 17, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ *Matthew Hawn lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Matthew Hawn - September 17, 2023 at 04:53 AM

PM

“ *Paul And Janie Molendorp lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Paul and Janie Molendorp - September 17, 2023 at 12:09 AM

CW

“ *Cathy And Denny Worden lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Cathy and Denny Worden - September 16, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ *Mary Ellen Inbody lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Mary Ellen Inbody - September 16, 2023 at 07:13 PM



My Sympathy to Mary Jo's family! She had a beautiful smile and was so friendly!! ❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏

Mary Ellen Inbody - September 16, 2023 at 07:17 PM

CC

“ *Cathy Cohrs lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Cathy Cohrs - September 16, 2023 at 04:26 PM

AW

“ Alan J Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen



alan j watkins - September 16, 2023 at 04:06 PM

SM

“ Sheryl McKevitt lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen



Sheryl McKevitt - September 16, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.



September 16, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Jo Lempiainen.

September 16, 2023 at 01:09 PM

LK

“ *Lottie McCormick and Joe and Deb Kloss purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Mary Jo Lempiainen.*



Lottie McCormick and Joe and Deb Kloss - September 16, 2023 at 11:51 AM

BS

“ *Beverly Sill lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Beverly Sill - September 16, 2023 at 11:47 AM

MH

“ *Prayers to your family as you mourn your mom's passing.*



missy Holweger - September 16, 2023 at 10:46 AM

SN

“ *Sorry to hear of Mary's passing, and our most sincere condolences to her family. Steve and Dawn Navara, Wells, MN*

Steve and Dawn Navara - September 16, 2023 at 10:16 AM

JP

“ *Judy Peddycoart lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Judy Peddycoart - September 16, 2023 at 10:02 AM

BE

“ *Prayers for the family*



Bob and Mary Emgarten - September 16, 2023 at 07:58 AM



“ *Karla Elwell Heinrichs lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Karla Elwell Heinrichs - September 16, 2023 at 07:30 AM

EB

“ *Evalyine Hilliard Billings lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Evalyine Hilliard Billings - September 15, 2023 at 11:34 PM

LC

“ *Lisa And Tom Caviness lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Lisa and Tom Caviness - September 15, 2023 at 10:26 PM

BT

“ *Brenda Tenney lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen*



Brenda Tenney - September 15, 2023 at 10:11 PM



“ *Mary will definitely be missed! She was such a joyful and sweet person that I got to work with and always had a smile to greet everyone with! Sending my sympathy and prayers to Mary's family!!*



Mandys Kitchen - September 15, 2023 at 08:20 PM

WV

“ *Sending sympathy and prayers for Mary's family. Got to work with Mary and become friends at W-M. She was a sweet gal.*

Verna G Vagle - September 15, 2023 at 07:23 PM

DB

“ So sorry for your loss. My sympathy to your family.

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - September 15, 2023 at 04:30 PM

KS

May she rest in peace 🙏 and may her family be comforted by the love and compassion of family and friends

Kate Shaw - September 16, 2023 at 07:00 PM



“ Julie Louderback lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo Lempiainen



Julie Louderback - September 15, 2023 at 04:15 PM

DK

“ She will be greatly missed. She was an amazing, sweet, loving person that I had the privilege of working with and knowing on a am sending her family many prayers and love on her passing. May God watch over you all I know she will be.

DeEtta Koen - September 15, 2023 at 02:30 PM