



## Mary Lou John

March 10, 1936 - November 20, 2013

Mary Lou John, age 77, of Spirit Lake, passed away Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake. She was born on March 10, 1936, in Buffalo Center, to Harvey and Bertha (Hanssen) Gilbert. Mary Lou worked for 22 years as a Wal-Mart greeter in Spirit Lake. In 2003, she won the Wal-Mart People Greeter of the Year Award, which is given nationally. Mary Lou enjoyed spending time traveling, cooking and baking. She especially enjoyed her time with her grandchildren in the kitchen! Mary Lou is survived by her two daughters, Debbie Papenfuhs, and her husband, Ronnie of Fair Play, Missouri, and Lisa Hennen, and her husband, Brian of Bellbrook, Ohio; two sisters, Delores Griffin, and her husband, Lee of Buffalo Center, and Virginia Oltoff of Buffalo Center; two brothers, Larry Gilbert, and his wife, Joyce of Stewartville, Minnesota, and Dean Gilbert, and his wife, Juanita of Crossville, Tennessee; five grandchildren, Amanda, Jeremy, Tanya, Monica and Cassi; and two great-grandchildren, Lexi and Ally. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Raymond; a sister, Marjorie; and two brothers, Bud and Bobby.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00A.M. Saturday, November 23, 2013, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held Friday, from 4:00P.M. until 7:00P.M. at the Schuchert Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ I enjoyed getting to know mary and working with her at walmart she was a sweet heart gonna miss her my heart goes out to the family rest in peace mary

cherylshear - November 25, 2013 at 11:59 AM

BW

“ Mary Lou was a very nice lady. While not a close friend, I had known her for many years and also, of course, she always greeted me at Walmart, where we always, like many others, had a short chat. My thoughts and my prayers are with her family and friends.

Bev and Vern Wittler - November 24, 2013 at 05:11 PM

JN

“ Mary Lou John

joan Nehman - November 23, 2013 at 11:49 AM

HB

“ Mary Lou John

Heather Baumgard - November 22, 2013 at 07:47 PM

SH

“ So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing , enjoyed her and your Dad so much at the VFW. A very sweet lady.

Sally Haas - November 22, 2013 at 01:52 PM

SH

“ I worked with Mary Lou at Walmart and she was always happy. She will be missed. She was a good friend.

Shirley Hansen - November 22, 2013 at 12:36 PM

JS

“ What a beautiful video! What a great tribute to your mom, dad, and family. I taught with Ray for many years and never saw him without a smile. You can see all his loving touches of your mom on the video. It was a happy marriage and happy family. My prayers go out to all of you at this difficult time.

Judy Stukey - November 22, 2013 at 10:05 AM

PB

“ Well, it is official. The 2003 Walmart Greeter of the Year has landed at heaven's door....and what an awesome greeter she was....and will be! MaryLou always had a smile and hello for everyone. She truly cared about others as she always asked how my family was. Going to Walmart after her retirement was never the same. Debbie, Lisa and family.....you were blessed to have MaryLou in your lives. Keep your memories close in your heart as she will always be there.

Pete & Julie Bergquist - November 22, 2013 at 09:08 AM

DR

“ I was saddened to read of Mary Lou's passing. When she was working at Walmart it was such a pleasure to stop and say hello. A terrific lady and always approachable and friendly. Sometimes I would sing "Hello Mary Lou" to her to say hello. She touched a lot of lives in a positive way. God's love and our sympathy to Mary Lou's family and close friends.

Dave Rowley - November 22, 2013 at 07:48 AM

KE

“ I only had the pleasure of meeting Mary Lou and Ray a few times, and I am glad for those few opportunities to have them touch my life. It is easy to see why Lisa is as wonderful as she is. I am thinking of the family today and always sending love and prayers your way.

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**Keli Eckley** - November 22, 2013 at 07:36 AM

RC

“ So many good memories of seeing and talking to Mary Lou (and Ray) at Walmart, VFW and at Taco Night. I'll sure miss her pleasant personality and warm heart but sure will cherish all the wonderful memories and laughs.

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**Rick Collins** - November 22, 2013 at 06:35 AM

TL

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mary Lou.. She was such a loving and caring lady. I had the pleasure of knowing her for the past 25 years. I was just thinking of her last week and was going to call her. Now I wish I would have. Heaven has gained a wonderful angel.. Bless you Mary Lou! My thoughts and prayers go out to your family during this difficult time.

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**Tammy Wee Lineweaver** - November 22, 2013 at 03:53 AM

CK

“ What a great loss. God bless her family. I had the pleasure of working with her at Walmart. She was always so upbeat and loving. I moved from Iowa to Washington state and got updates on how she was from Deanna Marchand. Heaven has a beautiful angel with them now.

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**Cathy Kiernan** - November 21, 2013 at 08:09 PM

BW

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**Bev Wittler** - November 21, 2013 at 07:32 PM

KS

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**Kathi Hinn, Alex & Zac Hinn Schaub** - November 21, 2013 at 06:39 PM

DM

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I was fortunate to have worked with and known Mary Lou. I looked forward to her smile and a brief visit every time I walked into Wal-Mart. Her pleasant personality and smile will be missed by all who knew her. Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

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**Deanna Marchand** - November 21, 2013 at 05:59 PM

CS

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**Chad Schuchert** - November 21, 2013 at 05:28 PM

JA

“ *Debbie, Lisa and families...our sympathy to all of you. We have known your family for many years and have fond memories. Your mom and dad were always so happy and so kind. Mary Lou's smile was so bright on the dreariest of days! We will miss her but know she is happily reunited with Ray...just like she knew she would be someday. Take care and hold on to the wonderful memories!*

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**Jeff and Penny Ashland** - November 21, 2013 at 04:40 PM

JG

“ Our sincere condolences to your family. I knew Mary Lou for many years and worked with her at 2 different jobs. She will be remembered for all her good deeds and kindness. She always had time to talk to a person and I enjoyed many laughs and talks with her! May God comfort you at this time. She is with God now and rejoined with her beloved Ray whom I know she missed very much!

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**Jan & Roger Gilbert** - November 21, 2013 at 03:49 PM

BA

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**Bill Johns andvi** - November 21, 2013 at 02:26 PM

BR

“ *growing up the bright red lip stick on my cheeks from mary lou and deloras every time I was around. ray and mary lou were always like parents to me and best of friends this will be the closing of many fond memorys :(*

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**Bryan** - November 21, 2013 at 02:20 PM

SS

“ *Debbie and Lisa,  
So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Please let us know if you need something. Mary Lou will surely be missed. She was always a shining smile when we had family gatherings.*

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**Sherry and Noel Seeley** - November 21, 2013 at 01:38 PM

ML

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**Mary Eddy Linton** - November 21, 2013 at 01:36 PM

JP

“ *Mary Lou John*

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**John & Connie Pedersen**, - November 21, 2013 at 01:24 PM

DB

“ *I was so sad to hear Mary Lou had passed away. She was such a great gal. I loved visiting with her at Walmart. She always wanted to know how Andrew was doing. Ray and my Dad were friends for years so our families go back aways. My sympathy to you now. God be with You.*

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**Dayle Broocks** - November 21, 2013 at 01:16 PM

PR

“ *Mary Lou was always such a friendly person to visit with.what a wonderful smile she had. So surprised about this death. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Peggy Rick** - November 21, 2013 at 11:54 AM

BW

“ *Mary Lou allways encouraged our daughter Bethaine when she worked at Wal Mart and when she saw us would talk to us about how she missed her! Mary Lou was great and so was Ray and now she'll be with him forever and our condolences to the family God Bless Deb!*

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**Brian and Carol Woods** - November 21, 2013 at 09:03 AM

FM

“ I was very sorry to hear of Mary Lou's death. I am equally sorry that I will not be able to attend her funeral, but I thank you for asking me to be a part of it. Please know that you all will be in my prayers and that I will remember your mother with special intention when next I celebrate the Eucharist. Blessings to you and your family.

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**Fr. Carl Mann** - November 21, 2013 at 08:11 AM

LS

“ So sorry to hear about Mary Lou taking her last journey home to be with Ray. She is in a better place and all of us will miss her dearly at #1415. She was very sincere in her greetings and wanted to know what was going on in your life. I will miss my dear friend. Prayers coming your way during this tough time.

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**Leslie Sorensen** - November 20, 2013 at 10:09 PM

MD

“ Mary Lou was a great woman! She always had a hug for our girls and a friendly smile. She will be missed by many. Thoughts go out to her family and loved ones!

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**Matt and Sheri Daniels** - November 20, 2013 at 08:44 PM

SD

“ I was sorry to hear about Mary Lou. I have known her since I was in high school. She was such a kind soul. I too remember her at Walmart. She always asked about how you were. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Sally Christensen DeLoss** - November 20, 2013 at 08:35 PM

AM

“ I was saddened to hear about Mary Lou's passing. I remember doing her hair over 14 years ago while I attended beauty school at Faust. She had such a kind heart! It was a joy to see her face in Walmart in the years that followed...her smile will be missed

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**Amber Mortenson** - November 20, 2013 at 04:41 PM

JM

“ Mary Lou will always be remembered for her kindness and concern for others. As the greeter at Walmart, She never failed to ask how we and our kid were doing. We'll miss her. Prayers for her and her family.

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**Jerry and Patty McGuire** - November 20, 2013 at 01:23 PM

BA

“ Mary Lou was a wonderful woman - always so polite and caring. I appreciate how she always asked about our kids when we would visit at Walmart. Now she and you dad can be together again - Bill and Cheryl Aumer

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**Bill and Cheryl Aumer** - November 20, 2013 at 11:29 AM

SM

“ Mary Lou John

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**Sheryl McKeivitt** - November 20, 2013 at 10:21 AM