



Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy

June 7, 1952 - May 8, 2021

Many of us have been blessed by the care and love given by Mary Rodawig Dunleavy who passed away on May 8th, 2021. Six months ago, Mary was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Mary was born in Sioux City, Iowa on June 7th, 1952 to Dr. Donald F. and Mrs. (Doris “Dienne”) Rodawig Jr. She grew up here at the lakes and graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1970. Mary attended Western Iowa Technical College in Sioux City, IA and Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg, IA to earn her ADN nursing degree. She began her career with her father at Lakes Regional Hospital before moving to Mesa, AZ.

For twenty years, Mary was an oncology nurse and then Director of Nursing in Mesa. On January 20, 1990, Mary married Gerry Dunleavy. Who has a son, Jason, whom Mary loved as her own. They were blessed with a daughter, Jessica on July 7th, 1990 and moved back to Mary’s lifelong favorite place – Okoboji, IA. Together, they joined St. Joseph’s Church in Milford, IA and assisted as Eucharistic Ministers. Mary cared for many in the lakes area working as the House Supervisor for Lakes Regional Healthcare and Public Health Manager for Dickinson County Public Health. She loved being a nurse and helping other nurses succeed.

Mary is Survived by: daughter Jessica Dunleavy and four grandchildren, Aubree, Mason, Rylee and Evelyn (Spencer, IA.); her ex-husband Gerry

Dunleavy (Terril, IA.) and step-son Jason Dunleavy (Milford, IA.); her father Dr. Donald F. Rodawig Jr. (Spirit Lake, IA.) and six siblings. Siblings are Don (partner Jan Beck) Rodawig III, Okoboji, IA; Ann Dinklage (partner Rex Potter) Spirit Lake, IA; Jane (Dan) Hummel, Spirit Lake, IA; Elizabeth (Steve) Bennett, Des Moines, IA; David (Michelle) Rodawig, Spirit Lake, IA; and Dan (Suzanne) Rodawig, Champagne, IL. Highlights of Mary's life were the visits with her many nieces and nephews. She loved each and every member of her family, cherished her friends and found great peace at the lake.

She was preceded in death by mother, Doris "Dienne" Duling Rodawig, and her nephew Jackson David Rodawig.

Mary put others before herself and especially took pride in caring for her grandchildren, Aubree, Mason, Rylee, and Evelyn were her greatest joys. She was also an avid Hallmark movie watcher and Longmire fan.

A visitation will be held in the community room one hour ahead of the Celebration of Life Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Milford, IA. Mass is scheduled for Wednesday May 12th at 10:30. The service will be live streamed on the church's Facebook page. Lunch will be served afterwards. Burial will be following these events at St. Margaret's Cemetery, Spirit Lake, IA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to 21358 155th Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 where a post educational fund is being set up for Mary's grandchildren.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Service

MAY 12. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Graveside Service

MAY 12. 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

St. Margaret's Cemetery
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Tribute Wall



“ *Special sympathy to Mary's family, special nurse.*

Maureen Reeves Horsley - June 07, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ *I worked with mary at Dickinson county memorial hospital for years. She brought alot of peace and joy to many patients. Someone I really looked up to.*

Dara Deets worrick - June 02, 2021 at 07:33 PM

BR

“ So very sorry to hear of Mary's passing.

We grew up on West Lake along with the Rodawig family. My brother Joe (Eckerman) was Don's age in school , Mary was a grade ahead of me in school and Annie was a grade behind me and friends with my little sis, Pat (Eckerman). My parents (Vic and Madeleine Eckerman) were godparents of one of the Rodawig children. I can't recall which one.

Doctor Don was our family doctor...in fact he delivered my son, Chad, 50 years ago in Spirt Lake Hospital. I remember whenever Doctor Don and Mrs. Rodawig would "fly" anywhere they would take different flights just to make sure if anything happened that one parent would always be there for the kids. Such a kind , caring family and so well respected in the community. It saddens me to hear of Mary's passing and the grief the entire Rodawig family must be going through. Know that my prayers and thoughts are with all of you .

God Bless you .

Warmest Regards, Barbara (Eckerman) Ross.

San Diego, California

Barbara Ross - June 01, 2021 at 05:17 PM

JL

“ Sincerely sorry to hear of Mary's death. It is very hard to loose a daughter, a sister and a Mother. Blessings to the family at this sad time. 🙏 Ed and Jean Linhardt

Jean and Ed Linhardt - May 15, 2021 at 06:30 PM



Thank you

Dan Rodawig - May 20, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ *Michael Prescott lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Michael Prescott - May 12, 2021 at 11:45 PM

BS

“ *Becky Stencil lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Becky Stencil - May 12, 2021 at 05:53 PM



Thank you Becky.

Dan Rodawig - May 20, 2021 at 12:47 PM

BP

“ *Bruce Pflueger lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Bruce Pflueger - May 12, 2021 at 11:03 AM

PJ

“ *Mary's smile and presence could light up a room! I think patients felt instantly better when she came on the scene! I got to know her through work with the County Health Board, a position in which she served faithfully and well for many years. Her compassion and kindness always shown through. Sincerest condolences to the families. She is your's and the entire community's loss and heaven's gain.*

Pam Jordan

Pam Jordan - May 12, 2021 at 09:17 AM

BW

“ *Bev And Vern Wittler lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Bev and Vern Wittler - May 11, 2021 at 04:47 PM

BW

“ *So sorry to hear of Mary's passing. I knew Mary for many years as I had worked at the hospital. Dr. Don was my doctor and Don III a very good friend. My sympathies to her brothers and sisters, father. Jessica and all of her friends and family. She was a great nurse and soft-hearted and friendly person who I know will be terribly missed. God bless and keep you all in His care during this difficult time.*

Bev and Vern Wittler - May 11, 2021 at 04:43 PM

YT

“ Yvonne Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Yvonne Taylor - May 11, 2021 at 02:48 PM

DP

“ DARLENE POWERS lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



DARLENE POWERS - May 11, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy.



May 11, 2021 at 12:44 PM

CP

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Rodawig families. Wrap yourselves in the wonderful memories that Mary was a part of.

Cyndy Powers - May 11, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ *Mary had a huge heart and spirit. Prayers for her family. Know you have another angel watching you.* ”



Marlys Blum - May 11, 2021 at 08:19 AM

RC

“ *Deepest sympathy to Mary's family.* ”



Ron and Sharon Crowley - May 10, 2021 at 11:13 PM

DB

“ *Deb Bockman lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy* ”



Deb Bockman - May 10, 2021 at 09:36 PM

NR

“ *Nancy (Wells) Radcliffe lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy* ”



Nancy (Wells) Radcliffe - May 10, 2021 at 06:19 PM

K(

“ *Karen Sampson - (Eckerman) lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Karen Sampson - (Eckerman) - May 10, 2021 at 06:18 PM

CW

“ *Cathy And Denny Worden lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Cathy and Denny Worden - May 10, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JG

“ *We would like to send our condolences to the family of Mary Rodawig Dunleavy in hopes that her family will find peace in knowing that she is free of her pain and suffering. Mary was a nurse at WeLife Assisted Living where my folks reside and I was able to see firsthand her dedication, kindness and care in working with the residents there. She chose an honorable career which lead to a lifetime of service in helping others. May you Rest In Peace, Mary. Janet (Bruett) Gannon*

Jan Gannon - May 10, 2021 at 02:07 PM

BK

“ *She always had a smile and kind touch*

Brian & Michella Koppen - May 10, 2021 at 01:35 PM

CA

“ Jessica, I will be holding you up in prayer these next difficult days. Your mom loved you so much and took pride in your artistic talent. Remember the mural on the lunchroom wall? Take comfort in all your wonderful memories.
Cheryl Aumer



cheryl aumer - May 10, 2021 at 12:57 PM



“ Norm Meinking lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Norm Meinking - May 10, 2021 at 12:21 PM

RA

We are so sorry for your loss!

Ray and colleen anderson - May 10, 2021 at 01:19 PM

SC

*I am so sorry to learn of Mary's passing. She was a sweet soul and my prayer is that Anne and Liz know how I wish I could be there to hug them. Childhood friends are still in my heart forever.
Susan Murray Cusimano of Pleasant Hill, MO*

Susan Murray Cusimano - May 12, 2021 at 11:33 AM

MJ

“ *Mary Ann Jansen lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



mary ann jansen - May 10, 2021 at 12:02 PM

DH

“ *Mary was a good friend. We had a lot of good memories when Mary was director of public health at Milford. Mary was a kind, thoughtful person who had a love of family, especially her grandchildren. She will be missed by a lot of people. Rest in peace Mary.*

David Halland - May 10, 2021 at 11:52 AM



Thank you David.

Dan Rodawig - May 20, 2021 at 12:45 PM



Thank you for your post David.

Dan Rodawig - May 20, 2021 at 12:45 PM

GB

“ *Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Greg & Dee Baloun - May 10, 2021 at 10:49 AM

TO

“ Terri Olerud lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Terri Olerud - May 10, 2021 at 10:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy.



May 10, 2021 at 10:28 AM

SS

“ The Rodawig family has always had a special place in our hearts. Our sincere sympathy to you and yours.

Stan and Rhea Sybesma

Stan Sybesma - May 10, 2021 at 09:30 AM

BK

“ Bruce Klenken lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Bruce Klenken - May 10, 2021 at 09:18 AM

LB

“ *Linda Hope Breuker lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Linda Hope Breuker - May 10, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ *Sally Haas lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Sally Haas - May 10, 2021 at 09:06 AM

ON

“ *Orville & Mary Kay Nagel lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Orville & Mary Kay Nagel - May 10, 2021 at 08:47 AM

SF

“ *Thinking of the Rodawig family at this sadden time. It's a time now to share many memories of the years with Mary. Blessings for all.*



Sunny and Harold Fronk - May 10, 2021 at 08:44 AM

CW

“ *Connie Weimer lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Connie Weimer - May 09, 2021 at 09:23 PM



“ *We were so saddened to hear of Mary's passing and our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family. Mary was definitely a compassionate and loving nurse! On 3 or 4 occasions when my mother had very serious surgeries, Mary was her ICU nurse every time. I especially remember the last time as she was so near death, and we were desperate not to lose her. But Mary went above and beyond our expectations, reassuring us. She was so compassionate, patient, and kind to my mother and our whole family. She allowed us to stay longer than we probably should have and spend more time with her. I like to think it was Mary's special care that pulled my mom through. She loved what she did, that was obvious. Of course we loved her father, Dr. Don, who delivered our boys and took wonderful care of our family for many years! God bless you all with precious memories. You are loved by our family!*

Charlene Radcliffe - May 09, 2021 at 09:20 PM



Thank you Charlene.

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 07:53 AM

GD

“ *The Doocys have always treasured the kindness of all the Rodawigs. We will continue to circle Mary and all of you in prayers. Mary had such a sincere and caring heart. We know there are treasured memories of Mary, and she will be missed dearly by many!*



George Doocy and daughters - May 09, 2021 at 08:38 PM



Thank you Doocys for your kind words about Mary. I will always remember how our families would take up whole pews at St. Marys, back in the day!

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 07:55 AM

AD

“ *Ann Devall lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Ann Devall - May 09, 2021 at 07:26 PM

KM

“ *She always had a smile and a friendly word. So sorry for your loss.*

Kathy McNeill - May 09, 2021 at 06:52 PM

CF

“ Colleen Frederick lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Colleen Frederick - May 09, 2021 at 03:31 PM

LM

“ Lynne Moeller lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Lynne Moeller - May 09, 2021 at 01:46 PM

LM

Prayers for the family.

Lynne Moeller - May 09, 2021 at 01:47 PM

DR

“ Don And Jean Reed lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Don and Jean Reed - May 09, 2021 at 01:01 PM

RB

“ *Rosemary Booth lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Rosemary Booth - May 09, 2021 at 11:03 AM

NR

“ *Nancy Rickman lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Nancy Rickman - May 09, 2021 at 09:16 AM

CW

“ *CONNIE WYMER lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



CONNIE WYMER - May 09, 2021 at 08:29 AM

TM

“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers to family!
Mary was a awesome person/nurse. I enjoyed working with her. My family always said Mary gave the best shots - they could never feel it - she had the touch!!*

Tim and Joni Mitchell - May 09, 2021 at 07:39 AM



She did have the touch! Thank you!

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 07:56 AM

PB

“ *Paul Bakke lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Paul bakke - May 09, 2021 at 06:58 AM

DB

“ *My sympathy to your family.*

Dayle Broocks



Dayle J Broocks - May 08, 2021 at 11:21 PM

MN

“ *Marlys Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy*



Marlys Nichols - May 08, 2021 at 10:54 PM

KW

“ Hugs and prayers to all of Rodawig families.



Kristie & Tim Wintz - May 08, 2021 at 10:39 PM

EG

“ My sympathies go out to the entire Rodawig family. Mary was always so friendly to me inquiring how our family was doing, etc. She always made you feel like you counted. She will definitely be missed by many. She is at peace and in no more pain.

Elaine Greer - May 08, 2021 at 10:28 PM



Amen and thank you Elaine.

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 07:57 AM

BH

“ Mary, I only knew you a short time as your apartment neighbor, but you were always so thoughtful and kind to me. I know how much your grandkids loved being with you, and your legacy lives on in them.

Brock Holman - May 08, 2021 at 10:14 PM



“ Michele Dyhrkopp Shortley lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Michele Dyhrkopp Shortley - May 08, 2021 at 09:01 PM

MS

“ My deepest sympathy to Mary’s family. I have very fond memories of the summers spent with family on Lake Okoboji and in Spirit Lake.

Martha Hudspeth Stohl

Martha Stohl - May 08, 2021 at 07:08 PM



Thank you! She is at peace now. Hope all is well!

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 07:59 AM

SD

“ To Mary's family, I am so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. She always had a smile on her face. Hugs and prayers.

Sally Christensen DeLoss - May 08, 2021 at 07:02 PM

JW

“ Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter - May 08, 2021 at 06:18 PM

KB

“ Kris Berning lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Kris Berning - May 08, 2021 at 06:15 PM

KK

“ Karen Krieger lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Karen Krieger - May 08, 2021 at 05:36 PM



Thank you Karen. So good to see you out on a walk recently.

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 08:00 AM

BA

“ Beverly Atwell lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Beverly Atwell - May 08, 2021 at 04:57 PM

KF

“ Ken Farmer lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Ken Farmer - May 08, 2021 at 04:52 PM

AM

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mary's family. We have been friends and classmates for many years. It was always so nice to run into her and catch up. Hugs and prayers to her family.*



Reba Dodds Munson

Alan and Reba Munson - May 08, 2021 at 04:28 PM

CL

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mary's family. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Connie Lange - May 08, 2021 at 04:13 PM



Thank you Connie 🙏

Dan Rodawig - May 14, 2021 at 01:07 PM

MA

“ *So sorry to hear of Mary's passing. We were friends in school and went to catechism together. My deepest sympathies to her family.*
Mary Brown Heidebrink

Mary - May 08, 2021 at 03:48 PM



Thank you Mary 🙏

Dan Rodawig - May 14, 2021 at 01:07 PM

JB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mary was a very special person and will be missed by many.



Jim and Annie Bauer - May 08, 2021 at 02:01 PM



Thank you Jim & Annie 🙏

Dan Rodawig - May 14, 2021 at 01:08 PM

AM

“ I have good memories of Mary when I worked for her folks. She was a good nurse and had a no-nonsense way about her care. She had a huge dog that standing, on it's hindlegs was something to see! May God in his Glory give her rest. My sympathy to all Mary's sisters and brothers and Dr. Don. Alice Mulder

Alice Mulder - May 08, 2021 at 02:01 PM



Thank you "Mrs. Mulder!"

Dan Rodawig - May 10, 2021 at 08:01 AM

TG

“ Twyla Garnmeister lit a candle in memory of Mary Rodawig-Dunleavy



Twyla Garnmeister - May 08, 2021 at 01:57 PM