



Nancy Ward

February 22, 1933 - February 19, 2014

Nancy Ward, 80 of Traverse City, Michigan died February 19, 2014. She was born to Vincent and Doris (Swalheim) Ward on February 22, 1933 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Nancy graduated from Niles High School (Niles, Michigan) in 1950 and received a BA in Elementary Education from Michigan State University in 1954. Nancy's took great pride in her accomplishments as an author and educator. She wrote three books on the subject of arts and crafts. She taught all ages, from elementary school students to senior adults. Nancy was also a craft blogger of 10 years. She inspired those around her with her strong intellect and curiosity. Nancy found her greatest joy in being the mother to her six children, whom she nurtured with a kind and loving spirit. Nancy was a serious chef (inspired by Julia Child) and passed on her love of good food to her children and grandchildren. She advocated for her children's participation in sports and always could be seen in the stands at any of their events. Nancy was an avid skier well into her sixties and her family have many fond memories of ski vacations. Her children will always remember her wearing Shalimar perfume as an indication of a special occasion. She will be missed. Nancy's love of family was never more evident than when she took the care of her grandsons Jackson and Tyson under her wing. She loved them as her own and found great satisfaction in their accomplishments. When her grandson Billy was born with serious medical complications, she unflinchingly stepped in to help in his care. Her strength will be seen for generations to come. She is preceded in death by her parents and by her brother, Michael.

Nancy is survived by her Sons, John Gillen of Cassopolis, MI; Dave (Kathy) Gillen of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Tim (Sue) Gillen of Traverse City; Joe Gillen of Toronto, Ontario; Andrew Gillen of San Francisco, CA and Daughter, Kate (Will) Sondgerath of Lafayette, IN; Sister, Sally Luth of Dowagiac, Michigan; former husband, Jack (Barbara) Gillen of Traverse City. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Services are planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers, those considering an expression of sympathy may want to consider a donation to The Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, CA. The family is being served by Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim Gillen - February 24, 2014 at 06:26 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Nancy Ward



Tim Gillen - February 24, 2014 at 06:24 PM