



Phyllis Maxine (Puffer) Cervone

July 18, 1932 - June 13, 2019

Phyllis Maxine (Puffer) Cervone of Kalkaska, passed on Thursday, June 13, 2019, about a month shy of her 87th birthday. She outlived all of her siblings, the children of Lloyd and Ruth (Ehl) Puffer of Spencer Village. She is survived by four loving children and their four spouses, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A woman who thought conformity was blasphemous, Mom was never shy of ensuring you knew where she stood. She educated beyond that of her siblings and had a career in nursing long before it was acceptable for women to have a career. She left the rural life of her birth for much more urban surroundings, only to return “home” later in life.

Married to the love of her life (Louis) in 1953, the two thrived in their commitment to one another, making each other better people along the way. She raised her four children to be confident in their opinions, yet respectful of others.

Mom began her recovery journey over 35 years ago, sponsored dozens of people and was committed to her sobriety for the remainder of her life.

She was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer at age 79. After winning that battle, the door opened to breast cancer. Another battle won.

A little over a week ago, she was told the cancer was back in her lungs. While she had moments of fear regarding her impending death, she was done fighting. In true Phyllis form, she mustered up the strength and courage to embrace it.

After one last deep breath, Mom left us to join her husband, leaving us with one final lesson: living the serenity prayer actually works.

Visitation will take place Wednesday, June 19, 2019 from 5-7 pm at Kalkaska Funeral Home. The funeral service will be Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 11 am with a final visitation beginning at 10 am until the time of service, in the chapel of Kalkaska Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to consider a donation to the Kalkaska Friends of the Library New Building Fund. <https://www.kalkaskalibrary.org/donate-2/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Final Visitation

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Service

JUN **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Phyllis Maxine (Puffer) Cervone.*



June 19, 2019 at 03:24 PM



“ *Phyllis was one of the strongest most independently minded woman I have ever known! I will always remember and respect her. She taught me much and I with forever be grateful for the time I had with her!! Sincerely, Barb Hulwick*

John-Barb Hulwick - June 18, 2019 at 07:58 AM



“ *I am named after this wonderful & beautiful aunt of mine. She and Uncle Lou have a special place in my heart. They and their children will always be loved and thought of often. My heart breaks but she is with the love of her life and the rest of her family forever. Love you Aunt Fee.*

Phyllis Dean Ward - June 17, 2019 at 10:04 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Maxine (Puffer) Cervone.*



June 17, 2019 at 08:07 PM

MP

“ *Marianne Rose Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Phyllis Maxine (Puffer) Cervone*



Marianne Rose Price - June 15, 2019 at 07:59 PM

MP

“ *I was immediately drawn to Phyllis when introduced. I could tell there was something special about her. I felt I'd known her a lifetime. I have so many wonderful memories of our conversations. We had both recently lost our husbands when we met. Phyllis took me under her wing. She shared her wisdom, kindness, understanding, laughter and tears. She made me want to be a better person and give back the way she did. She was such a pistol and could have me doubled over laughing till it hurt. Or she'd get that devilish glint in her eye and throw out one of her many sayings. She was a treat, no doubt about it. But she always told me to call if I ever needed her. She was an inspiration to more people than she could have ever imagined. I'm so blessed to have been able to kiss her sweet face, say my good-byes and tell her how much she touched my life and how very much I loved her. Rest in Heavenly Peace my dear friend. I will miss you. ❤️*

Marianne Rose Price - June 15, 2019 at 04:24 PM

BA

Love this Marianne. ❤️

Barb Abramczyk - June 17, 2019 at 05:43 PM

SV

I will always remember what a great friend Phyllis was to my Mom. She and Barb were two of the funniest ladies that I have ever met. I know that somewhere the 3 of them are back to causing trouble, which is what they did best! And i know ice cream is involved.....

Sally Voorhees - June 18, 2019 at 11:56 AM