



Mary Lee Laudenslager

December 13, 1947 - August 8, 2015

Mary Lee Byerly Laudenslager joined her fellow angels in heaven on August 8, 2015. She blessed our lives for 67 years, 7 months, and 26 days. Mary's parents were Mary Catherine Shiffer and Lee Elias Byerly. Mary and her parents lived in Pillow, PA. Since marrying Joseph Lee Laudenslager on November 29, 1969, she and Joe have been residents and well-known community members of Gratz, PA. Mary Lee and Joe are the parents of: daughter Audra Laudenslager Eyster, married to Troy Eyster, who are parents of granddaughters Lydia and Alaina Eyster; son Brian Laudenslager, father to first grandchild Brock Laudenslager, married to Tanya Hepler, and are parents of grandchildren Elise, Olivia, and Bryce Laudenslager; and Brock is the father of great-grandson Dylan Laudenslager. Mary Lee has many cousins on both parents' sides.

Mary Lee was blessed to grow up in a small town, surrounded by family and friends who were so helpful when her mother passed away at the age of 37. Her surrogate mother, Lottie "Mammy" Shiffer, who made the hamburger barbecue for the Pillow Block Party, gave her unfailing love. Mary Lee was a beautiful blond majorette for Upper Dauphin High School, from which she graduated in 1965. While Joe served our country in Viet Nam, Mary Lee pursued business training at the Thompson Business Institute in Harrisburg, PA. After working in State College she returned home in a few years and completed training at the Empire Beauty School. Mary also served as a

lifetime member of the Gratz Area Ambulance as a dispatcher. Her expanded family, the Laudenslager's and Shiffer's, also supported Mary Lee when her father passed away at age 55. This extended family circle of kindness and love shaped Mary's own willingness to be helpful and supportive of anyone she knew that needed a hand.

As a young woman, Mary Lee balanced raising two very active children, a full-time career as a beautician, and the responsibilities of wife and homemaker. But she always had time to help a friend and visit with family. She was the friendly, listening ear of a local hairdresser - forming lifetime relationships along the way, even travelling to Millersburg to cheer up nursing home residents by doing their hair. She was always a hit at a family reunion, bringing home-cooked specialties and, as always, there to help in any way she could. Mary Lee unselfishly loved her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, aunts, uncles, and cousins; no sacrifice was too great.

Mary Lee has been a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church, initially at Zion Stone Valley Lutheran Church, but since moving to Gratz, of the Simeon United Lutheran Church. Her foundation in faith was formed at an early age and has not only served Mary Lee throughout life's trials, but has also shaped her children's spirituality and inspired so many others. Mary Lee was a living testament to the peace and tranquility that results from Christian devotion. Mary Lee's faith, family, and friendships are her salient accomplishments - and they are the legacy that she leaves to us. The last sixteen years of her life were shaped, in large part, by coping with cancer. With each reoccurrence, she inspired others like her, caregivers, physicians, and hundreds of others with her positive outlook, her thankfulness for all things, and her silent yet steel-like strength and resolve. Mary Lee is truly an Angel who walked among us and we will surely see her again in Heaven.

Join us in celebrating Mary Lee's life in her chosen style on Saturday, August

15 at 11:00am at Simeon United Lutheran Church, Gratz, PA. Visitation will be held from 10-11:00am also from the Church. Mary Lee always loved flowers, and her wish is that flowers sent for the ceremony be taken home by the senders - as a remembrance of her. In lieu of flowers, if you wish, please donate to Simeon United Lutheran Church.

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 15. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

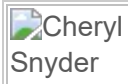
Simeon United Lutheran Church
173 N Center St
Gratz, PA 17030

Funeral Service

AUG 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Simeon United Lutheran Church
173 N Center St
Gratz, PA 17030

Tribute Wall



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. You were blessed to have her as a part of your lives! Cheryl and Don Snyder

Cheryl Snyder - August 17, 2015 at 07:58 PM

TA

“ Rest in peace Mary, to my dear friend and classmate.

Tanya - August 16, 2015 at 05:43 AM

TW

“ The Deppens, Kulps, Hovenstines, Browns, and Wilkinsons purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mary Lee Laudenslager .



The Deppens, Kulps, Hovenstines, Browns, and Wilkinsons -
August 14, 2015 at 01:33 PM

WG

“ So sorry for your loss. She was an amazing and strong person. May God give you peace knowing she is no longer suffering. Until you meet again God bless everyone

Wendy Geist - August 12, 2015 at 10:45 PM

CB

“ *Carla & Tiffany Bohner lit a candle in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager*



Carla & Tiffany Bohner - August 11, 2015 at 08:25 AM

SS

“ *Marylee will be dearly missed by her family and all the lives she touched. She was a bright light in many peoples lives! I wish peace and strength to her family. God bless!!*



Stacey Stilli - August 10, 2015 at 07:17 PM

CC

“ *Mary Lee was a wonderful lady. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.. Mary had spirit, faith and a positive attitude for herself and others. It was a pleasure knowing her as one of the Pillow Girls, as well as in her adult life. Charlene Lenker Cristy.*

Charlene Lenker Cristy - August 10, 2015 at 04:22 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Lee Laudenslager .*



August 10, 2015 at 12:36 PM

PS

“ Pam Reed Snyder lit a candle in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager



Pam Reed Snyder - August 10, 2015 at 12:22 PM

CM

“ Mary Lee was the most loyal and faithful friend anyone could ask for here on this earth. We traveled together to Empire Beauty School and had many fun moments. I am thankful to have been a friend of hers. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.
Carol mace



Carol Mace - August 10, 2015 at 07:01 AM

DL

“ So sorry that Mary has passed. She was a beautiful person. So strong and had such a good heart. I know how much she will be missed, but she is at peace now and her pain and suffering are over.



Deb and Jeff Leitzel - August 09, 2015 at 10:59 PM

PK

“ Mary Lee was one of my very first playmates in Pillow. Her Mother, and my Mother, Frances Romberger were very close friends. Between Kay Troutman Kocher, Mary Lee Byerly and Peggy Romberger Keaffer (THE THREE PILLOW KIDS) we could always find something to do outside - roller skate, ride our bikes, play with paper dolls, etc. Swimming and sledding was fun, too. Mary had a smile for everyone - If you knew her as a child in Pillow you received that smile. High School Days were interesting, and went too fast for many of us! I will miss her hugs in Wal-Mart! We would talk for a good length of time. I will miss talking about old days when the times were a little less rushed and childhood was still with us. That is what memories are made of - I have many memories of Mary Lee - all good ones! Rest in peace, dear friend. You certainly earned it!

Peggy Romberger Keaffer

Peggy Keaffer - August 09, 2015 at 10:28 PM

AW

“ I remember a Sunday morning sitting in church and Mary came over and sat beside me and said I didn't know you were a "Pillow girl". She told me about herself growing up in Pillow. She made me feel like we had an instant friendship due to our Pillow connection. She truly did touch everyone she met. May you have peace Mary.

Ashley Welker - August 09, 2015 at 08:08 PM

JR

“ James Reed lit a candle in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager



James Reed - August 09, 2015 at 06:57 PM

AL

“ Allen Leitzel And Denise Leitzel lit a candle in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager



Allen Leitzel and Denise Leitzel - August 09, 2015 at 02:34 PM

WA

“ Mary Lee was so good to my Mom, her Aunt Florence. She always said that her aunt Florence was an inspiration to her. Mary Lee was an inspiration to us, for her unending positive attitude and unselfish help she gave to us. She helped me so many times when I was struggling with my mom's failing health, when really she was in the same situation. To say I will miss her doesn't even come close.

Wanda - August 09, 2015 at 01:37 PM

KR

“ What a beautiful lady she was. She was such a friendly, caring, lady who I got to know through her family coming to our church. I will never forget her thoughtfulness and her help with finding a certain items I have looked for a long time. She gave it to me without ever wanting anything for it. For that I appreciated it so much. She will be missed dearly. May we all be as graceful and loving as she was. RIP Mary. See you on the other side.

Kathleen Rothermel - August 09, 2015 at 12:39 PM

M(

“ *Mary C (Klinger)Leitzel sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager*



Mary C (Klinger)Leitzel - August 09, 2015 at 08:43 AM

KS

“ *Karen And Glenn Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Mary Lee Laudenslager*



Karen and Glenn Schwartz - August 09, 2015 at 08:03 AM

KS

Mary was such a comfort too me the many times I ran into her, we went to hair shows together a few times and she always made me laugh and think about the Lord. I will never forget her smiling face and how we laughed the day we met at Shades and laughed about not wearing a bra COZ WE WERE IN a hurry too get supper made. She was a true inspiration and always will be. See ya Mary!

Karen and Glenn Schwartz - August 09, 2015 at 08:07 AM



Mary was a real comfort to me when my mom was sick you and mom and daddy are now together having good times once again love ya.

Bonnie Maurer - August 09, 2015 at 08:39 PM

BR

“ Mary was the kindest sweetest woman I ever met , when we spent time in rehab together last year she was always worried about me being comfortable even when she was recovering herself.I am so glad I got to meet such an amazing person. My deepest sympathy goes out to her family in this time of sorrow!



Barbara Reynolds - August 09, 2015 at 07:43 AM

CL

“ Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mary Lee's family and friends. May your treasured memories carry you through this most difficult time. I will always remember her as a truly wonderful person who always had a smile for everyone. She was an angel here on earth and now is an angel in Heaven.



Clair & Connie (Unger) Lubold - August 08, 2015 at 04:32 PM

JW

“ Mary Lee was a wonderful wife---mother---- grammy & friend to all. always upbeat when her sickness tried to keep her down.I was blessed to have her as a friend

Joan Williard - August 08, 2015 at 03:00 PM