



Gloria L. (Dillon) Paulson

March 7, 1934 - June 29, 2013

Gloria L. (Dillon) Paulson, 79, passed away peacefully at home during last rites, surrounded by her family on June 29th, her mother, Lucy's birthday, after a long and courageous battle with inclusion body myositis. She was born Gloria Lucille Dillon in Santa Barbara, California on March 7th, 1934, daughter of Lucille and James Dillon. She came to Rockford in 7th grade, was the tallest in her class and immediately, 'well liked by all'. She graduated from Muldoon High School in 1952. She was class president or vice president, all four years. She earned a full Scholarship to Barry College in Miami, Florida. As was common in the day, she was whisked off to be married later that same year. She balanced her career as an executive assistant (Co-op Extension, HHM&A, Autopoint, Cain & Co, WMDM, and Amcore Bank) with the challenging job of raising three sons on her own. Later, she met the true love of her life, Melvin Paulson and was happily remarried on December 2, 1967. Active in St. James Church, particularly Voice of the Faithful and Free Spirits, and heavily involved in volunteering, her life's passion was to make people happy, to care for them, to be a friend, to support. Scholar, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother, friend, volunteer, bridge-partner extraordinaire, swimmer, Gloria embraced each of these roles with vigor. She lit up rooms she entered and warmed and brightened the lives she touched. The word "charismatic" fit her perfectly. Gloria is survived by sons Mark Patrick, Greg Paul (Lea Ann Francis), Jeff Dillon, by "daughter" Beverly Bellows (Mark Heiderscheit, (children Austin and Ashley)), and by

stepchildren Susan, Shelly, Sandy & Steve; grandchildren Zachary Hogan, Hannah Hogan, Arielle Jorgensen (D. Michael) and Conor Hogan; great grandchildren Sophia Hogan and M. Dillon Jorgensen and a host of extended family members and 'best friends' too numerous to mention. Last but not least are her beloved pets and constant companions, Molly the dog and "Gazzie-cat". She was predeceased by mother Lucille and father Jim Dillon and her husband and eternal partner, Mel Paulson. A special thank you goes to the volunteers of Heartland Hospice, and to Lisa and Kev Noakes, who were her caregivers and guardian angels. On Wednesday, July 3rd, all are welcome to a visitation at Grace & Cremation Services, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, 1340 South Alpine Rd. Rockford, at Colonial Village. A service to celebrate Gloria's life will be held Friday, July 5th, at 12:00 p.m. at St. James Church in Rockford, 428 N. 2nd Street, Rockford; visitation from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. will take place prior. At the conclusion of the Mass, we will move to Arlington Cemetery for the burial ceremony. In lieu of flowers, contributions will be accepted by Voice of The Faithful, sent to Grace Funeral & Cremation Services in Gloria's honor. To share a memory or condolence, visit www.graceFH.com

Cemetery Details

Arlington Memorial Park Cemetery

6202 Charles Street
Rockford, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main Street
Rockford, IL 61103
(815) 395-0559
kristan@gracefh.com
<https://www.gracefh.com>

Visitation

JUL 5. 11:00 AM - 11:45 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
428 N. 2nd Street
Rockford, IL

Service

JUL 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
428 N. 2nd Street
Rockford, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Gloria L. (Dillon) Paulson



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - November 04, 2014 at 10:44 AM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Gloria's family. She touched so many of us and we will truly miss her kind and loving spirit. She radiated sunshine in all of our lives and she made the world a better place to live. She was truly a gift to all who knew her. We will miss her so much!

Larry and Rose McCulloh - July 03, 2013 at 05:58 PM

JM

“Gloria? How does one say goodbye to someone as beautiful, statuesque loving and caring? 67 years, that is how long I have known her. I remember her coming to the 7th grade at St. Pat's on W. State and Royal, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior at Muldoon on W. State, one block west of Avon. I recall the year long running Canasta game we had with her Mom, my second Mom, Her cousin Jack, my childhood friend, her and myself on Sunday afternoons. The times at the Tally Ho I would get double portions of the daily special after peeling potatoes or cutting them up for french Fries. When I protested I was told I needed fattening up. What 16-17 year old was going to turn down extra meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy topped with fresh pie and ice cream? The walks to and from Hodges Drug store or Tompkins Ice Cream Parlor on summer evenings and yes, on winter ones also. Gloria never turned down a chance to do something different, yet wholesome and clean. The nights we would walk each other to the corner of Forest Ave. and School St., kiss goodnight and go our separate ways home. I would then wait a few minutes and call to make sure she got home and in the house OK. We lived at least 400-500 yards from each other. The elderly couple that lived on that same corner and would tell us both, "Good night Jim, Goodnight Gloria, after we had said our goodnights. we in turn always said, "Goodnight Mr. and Mrs. Anderly. The crowning memory was the night of my Senior Prom. Gloria was my Prom date and as we sat at the Wagon Wheel, just outside of Rockton, waiting for our pre Prom meal I sat and looked at her and found her to be the most beautiful women I had ever, at that point, known. Being just 18 I had not a clue on how to tell her that. My way was to treat her as any women should be treated. We danced the night away, went to a classmate's home that his parents were building near Rockford Country Club, had soft drinks, sandwiches and more dancing on a dimly lit patio. Having several hours to kill before we, the senior class, were to meet at Aldeen Park to watch the sunrise. We knew it would be the last time the entire class would be together at one time, we decided to go swimming at Lake Louise near Byron. Being young and having a devil may care attitude we never gave it a thought to the

consequences, if caught. We didn't get caught, made it for the sunrise get together and capped everything off with a breakfast at A sister of one of our classmates home. Shortly after my graduation Uncle Sam came calling as there seemed to be some type of trouble he needed our help with in a place called Korea. The last time I saw Gloria was the night of her Senior Prom, 1952. I was home on furlough prior to "shipping over". During the next 62 years I thought often of Gloria and why wouldn't I? She had such a tremendous impact on my adolescent and youthful years. I knew how I felt about her during those youthful years but, as I have said, I did not know how to tell her. I had tried many times in the past 8-9 years to get in touch but she would not answer my phone calls or return emails. Finally 4 weeks ago I made contact. She asked me why I had not gotten in touch earlier. When I told her why she told me, "Jim Menne, I would never not return your phone call or not answer an email from you. We have to many memories not to do so". I HAD THE WRONG PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS.

What little time we had before her passing to a life of no more pain, we had some quality time talking and reminiscing. I am sorry we did not have more time but grateful for what time we had. As I close this remembrance of my first true love, I will always remember you Gloria. I also have found the words that I have wanted to say, "Gloria, I love you".

Jim Menne

Jim Menne - July 02, 2013 at 05:27 PM

TL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Trudy Lewis - July 02, 2013 at 10:42 AM