

Mary Ellen McKinney

June 17, 1947 - August 11, 2015

Mary Ellen was born in Alma, Michigan on June 17th 1947, to Harvey J. and Julia Hunter. She was raised in Alma and attended St Mary's School for primary and Alma Public Schools for secondary education. She attended Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College. She was married to Chuck McKinney on July 1st, 1967.

She worked as a nurses aide for 7 years then acquired her LPN in 1977. While practicing as an LPN she was a major organizer for the group into the Michigan LPN Association. She was always an active union member. With major amount of help and support from her family, she received her ADN to reach her life long dream to become a Registered Nurse.

In 1987 she and her family left their home in Michigan where the family was born and raised and moved to North Central Washington. She was employed for 22 years at Central Washington Hospital, working as a Staff Nurse, Charge Nurse, and Nursing Supervisor. As a member of WSNA she was an active member for many years and manned 2 negotiating teams, worked as Grievance Officer and Union Representative for her unit, Surg/Ortho.

Her passion for Democratic politics was well known. She joined the Chelan County Democrats in 1987. She participated as Treasurer for 3 years and helped in campaign offices many times over the years. She was so proud to

be chosen to be a Precinct officer in 2012, and was so disappointed to have to give the position up for health reasons.

Her creativity came out in her skills for Home Decorating and making clothes for her family. She loved to sew.

She had a great love for her family and her life partner Chuck. She leaves behind son, Matt McKinney, daughter, Darcy (Chad) Spies. Her beloved brother Donald (Fran) Hunter of Benton City WA, nieces Kim(Hunter) & Jerry Nestle, Julie(Hunter) & Mark Monroe and Nephew Jeff (Lisa) Hunter all of Michigan. Carlie(Hunter) & John Banks, Lori (Hunter) & Cody Newberry, Candace (Hunter) & Josh Wingert, and Lacey (Hunter) & Justin Welch all of Benton City, Wa. The McKinney side; Lisa (McKinney) Kirk and Lita (McKinney) & Ron Warehime, Mark (Nada) McKinney, Nick (Beth) McKinney, and Brent (Kathy) McKinney all of Ohio. Sister-in law Nancy McKinney of Ohio. And numerous close & cherished friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Association at alsa.org. The family will be arranging a memorial at a later date. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjones.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - August 21, 2015 at 04:20 PM

KA

“ My dearest sister friend...

Today is your birthday, and it's been exactly 10 months and 6 days since you left us, and left this world we both have cared about in so many similar ways - ways that for nearly 25 years, we often discussed as naturally and easily as the day breaks. We shared not just our everyday news with each other, but our deepest hearts and thoughts (all stuff I know I need not reiterate here, as we were so often on the same wave-length on so many things that mattered to us!) - sharing in our comforts, empathy and hopes, and at times, even our outrage and sense of jubilation at triumphs, large and small - in matters of social justice, and in what we observed and lived through together in this mixed up, striving and beautiful world; the whole range of experience and hopes we have each embraced; for our children, our families, our lives and our old age, and for our world, all of which we lived and shared as the best of friends.

At first I thought I couldn't stand it, being without you in my world for these everyday commiserations - all the vagaries of life and goings on that having a sister friend to share those things with, and with whom to seek affirmations about, makes so much easier and more fun! How could I manage without my friend to talk to about my troubles, and to share my joys and to whom I've always looked for the best kind of advise and wisdom?

*Well, I cannot say the fun has returned. But I've realized something. It actually came to me rather soon after you left. It's just this; that in so many ways you **are** still here with me. Because I've known you so well, and you've been such a part of my life for so long, that I have only to ask a question, and you answer. I have only to tell you of my sadness, or my happiness, and you are there to feel it with me; as I so clearly see your smile and hear your voice; I know what you will say, and in this way you speak and feel with me still.*

You were always a treasure to me Mary Ellen, and you will be, always and forever! You are with me still, and my heart is with you.

That will never die, but lives on as a shining light in my life.

Happy birthday my dear friend! You are a gift to this world, and you are a gift to me!

Kate - June 17, 2016 at 07:56 AM

KA

“ My dearest sister friend...

Today is your birthday, and it's been exactly 10 months and 6 days since you left us, and left this world we both have cared about in so many similar ways - ways that for nearly 25 years, we often discussed as naturally and easily as the day breaks. We shared not just our everyday news with each other, but our deepest hearts and thoughts (all stuff I know I need not reiterate here, as we were so often on the same wave-length on so many things that mattered to us!) - sharing in our comforts, empathy and hopes, and at times, even our outrage and sense of jubilation at triumphs large and small - in matters of social justice, and in what we observed and lived through together in this mixed up, striving and beautiful world; the whole range of experience and hopes we have each embraced; for our children, our families, for our lives and our old age; and for our world, all of which we lived and shared as the best of friends.

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*Well, I cannot say the fun has returned. But I've realized something. It actually came to me rather soon after you left. It's just this; that in so many ways you **are** still here with me - really and truly here. Because I've known you so well, and because you've been such a big part of my life for so long, that I have only to ask a question, and you answer. I have only to tell you of my sadness, or my happiness, and you are there to feel it with me; as I so clearly see your smile and hear your voice; I know what you will say! And in these ways you speak and feel with me still.*

You were always a treasure to me Mary Ellen, and you will be,

*always and forever! You are with me still, and my heart is with you.
That will never die, but lives on as a shining light in my life.*

*Happy birthday my dear sister-friend! You are a gift to this world,
and you are a gift to me!*

Kate - June 17, 2016 at 03:56 AM

CM

“ *Cathy Meuret lit a candle in memory of Mary
Ellen McKinney*



Cathy Meuret - August 24, 2015 at 09:25 AM

LO

“ *I was so lucky to have such a
beautiful, kind, loving Aunt. I have the best
memories from spending summers with Aunt
Mary and Uncle Chuck, wonderful memories
that bring a smile to my face. Every time we
spoke she was so caring and such a great listener. I miss you
dearly, I know you are watching over all of your loved ones and that
brings me peace.
I love you Aunt Mary...
~Lori~*



lori - August 22, 2015 at 01:40 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - August 21, 2015 at 03:56 PM



“ I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts on Mary Ellen. She was my soul mate. There is a huge hole in my life now and your thoughtful comments help to fill that hole. I will go to my grave loving her, she was my life. I was so proud to be her caregiver in her waning months and days because she took care of me for over 48 years. Thanks again,
Her loving husband,
Chuck

Charles J McKinney - August 19, 2015 at 11:03 AM



Yours was a true love story Uncle Chuck. She leaves us all with a piece of her in our heart. I'm sending my love to you that miles cannot take away.

Lita Warehime - August 22, 2015 at 01:16 PM



That's beautiful Lita, thank-you for your loving and heartfelt thoughts on behalf of our dear friends Chuck & Mary Ellen.

Kate - June 17, 2016 at 03:59 AM

Darcy
McKinney
Spies

“ *Darcy McKinney Spies lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney*



Darcy McKinney Spies - August 19, 2015 at 10:20 AM

MM

“ *Matt McKinney lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney*



Matt McKinney - August 18, 2015 at 03:16 PM

MM

“ *Mom, you raised me to be the man I am today. Your beautiful personality would light up anyone's life who was lucky enough to have met you. Mary Ellen McKinney, was the best mom I could ever wish for. Though you are gone, I will always have memories of our time together. Thank you for putting together the picture album for me and my sister so I can revisit the family memories anytime I want. You will be missed by all who met you. I love you mom now and forever.*

Matt McKinney - August 18, 2015 at 03:16 PM

DN

“ *Mary was a great lady, and I am so glad to have gotten to know her and to call her my friend. I will miss her greatly. My thoughts go out to Chuck, her kids and the rest of her family. Most sincerely, Debbie Nielson*

Debbie Nielson - August 17, 2015 at 01:49 AM

KH

“ Kerry Hambly lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



Kerry Hambly - August 16, 2015 at 11:08 AM

LW

“ Lacey Welch lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



Lacey Welch - August 15, 2015 at 10:45 PM

DH

“ Mary Ellen McKinney, the very best sister anyone could ever have. Smiling face, mentor, great advice, and support will never be forgotten.
Your Brother,
Donald J. Hunter

Donald Hunter - August 15, 2015 at 05:08 PM

FH

“ Mary my sister in law was more my sister. Her words of wisdom, her helping hands, the love she gave, her respect she gave, will always be with me and our family . A sister so dear an aunt so kind will be with us forever.



Fran Hunter - August 15, 2015 at 11:18 AM

DH

“ Donald Hunter lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



donald hunter - August 14, 2015 at 11:45 PM

DH

“ Mary Ellen McKinney,
The very BEST sister anyone could ever have.
Smiling face, mentor, great advice and support.
Brother, Donald J. Hunter

donald hunter - August 14, 2015 at 11:40 PM

JB

“ I have many fond memories of Mary Ellen and I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones. God Bless <3



Jen Brown - August 14, 2015 at 10:40 PM

CK

“ Mary Ellen was an iconic caregiver at Central Washington hospital. She always gave 100 percent to each and every patient and inspired others to rise to her excellent level of care. I was so sorry to hear of the health struggles that she encountered in retirement. My heart goes out to her husband and family in their loss.


cynthia konicke - August 14, 2015 at 06:29 PM

MS

“ Darcy you and your family are in my prayers.
Megan Samuel



Megan Samuel - August 14, 2015 at 12:22 PM


Kimberly
Nestle

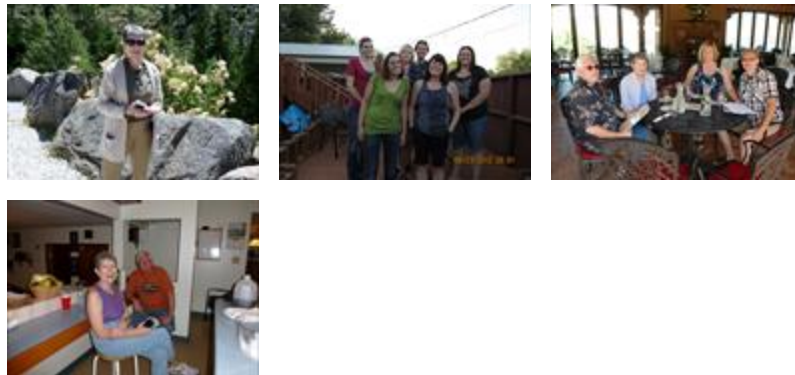
“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Kimberly Nestle - August 14, 2015 at 11:57 AM

KN

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Kim Nestle - August 14, 2015 at 11:54 AM

SB

“ Rest in peace dear friend. We will always remember you.
Robert and Sandra Boynton

Sandra Boynton - August 14, 2015 at 11:07 AM

CM

“ *An incredible nurse, she taught me so much!
Will forever be blessed with her smile in my
memory.*



Christy stubblefield monnot - August 14, 2015 at 09:06 AM

MW

“ *Chuck & family, I don't know how to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. Mary Ellen & I grew up together & were best friends all through school. Mary Ellen was so vibrant & enthusiastic about everything she did. She was truly an amazing lady, always following through with her convictions, even in high school and then when she started her nursing career. The four of us, (the 4 musketeers) shared many experiences together in our high school days, whether it was going to the beach, driving the circuit in Alma or going to the dances at the Alma Armory. I remember the night the Beatles were on Ed Sullivan's show...we were right there in her parents living room, screaming & singing away & eating popcorn. There are so many memories of the friendship we shared over the years. It was so good seeing her a couple years ago when you came back to Michigan....the time flew by as we were catching up on what has been happening in our lives. Even though we were miles apart in distance, she held and still holds a very special place in my heart... Each of you are in my prayers....may God surround you with his love as you grieve the loss of a very special lady. Love you, Marilyn Wilson*

marilyn wilson - August 14, 2015 at 04:39 AM

Guy Spies

“ Guy Spies lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



Guy Spies - August 14, 2015 at 02:57 AM

Alyson Berman

“ Mary Ellen was a Wonderful Person and NURSE...We have so many great Memories @ work??




Alyson Berman - August 14, 2015 at 01:38 AM

SB

“ Mary and I became friends when she first moved to Wenatchee and we worked on Orthopedics. I have loved her as a good friend for all these years. I am encouraging all those who loved Mary to contribute to the Palliative Care Team at Confluence Health. If we can raise \$500 in her name, Confluence Health will put up a plaque in the hospital lobby which says, "In loving memory of Mary Ellen McKinney, RN

Sandra Boynton, RN

Sandra Boynton - August 13, 2015 at 08:09 PM


Kaitlynn
Byrnes

“ *Kaitlynn Byrnes lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney*



Kaitlynn Byrnes - August 13, 2015 at 08:04 PM

JS

“ *Mary was a great comfort to me after my parents divorce and through my Fathers second marriage, she was someone I could confide in on neutral ground. She was a second mother to me growing up and I missed the whole family terribly after they moved to WA. You will always be my heart, you were an angel on earth now in Heaven. RIP*

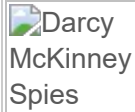
Jana Horvath Van Scoik - August 13, 2015 at 07:48 PM

MW

“ *Mike & Vicki Wezensky lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney*



Mike & Vicki Wezensky - August 13, 2015 at 07:34 PM



“ Mom you were the most amazing woman. We all loved you so much. You will be in our hearts always. I will do my best to live up to your legacy. I am so proud to say I am your daughter. From the moment I could understand, you taught me to stand up for myself and my beliefs. You always told me I was capable of anything, that I could do whatever I chose to do in my life. Even through all my struggles you were always there to pull me back up and straighten me out. I will miss your hugs, your kind voice, beautiful face, compassionate spirit, positive attitude and infectious laugh every single day of my life. I love you with all my heart. Your daughter, Darcy Ann.

Darcy McKinney Spies - August 13, 2015 at 07:24 PM



“ Tina Logg lit a candle in memory of Mary Ellen McKinney



Tina Logg - August 13, 2015 at 07:03 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I can't imagine losing such a great lady at such a young age. I worked with Mary Ellen at Central. She always had a smile and was so very nice. Great with patients and coworkers! She a wonderful laugh and good sense of humor. My prayers for you at this time.

Pat Schauer - August 13, 2015 at 11:50 AM