



Harriet R. Mathews

December 31, 1937 - February 10, 2023

Harriet R. Mathews of LeRoy passed away February 10, 2023. She was 85.

Harriet was born December 31, 1937 in Marshall, Michigan to Willis and Helen (Hall) Hillabrant and they preceded her in death. On January 31, 1960 at the Presbyterian Church in Marshall, Michigan she married Delmer E. Mathews and he preceded her in death on January 30, 2022.

Harriet graduated from Central Michigan University and taught elementary school for over 30 years. The majority of her teaching career was spent in Pine River School District teaching kindergarten. She loved teaching and loved every one of her students. Harriet taught multiple generations of families and always loved seeing former students.

Her cheerful and kind nature extended to outside of the classroom as well. Harriet was active and fiercely independent. She loved going on trips with her friends and delighted in spending time with her family; especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved her church family and the community. She was much loved, a wonderful listener and loyal friend.

She is survived by their children: Barb (Rob) Sibary of Luther, Dan (Tani) Mathews of Houston, Texas, Bob Mathews of Cadillac; grandchildren: Corrie (Mark) Breunsbach, Nate (Becca) Sibary, Mariah Mathews, Jacob Mathews,

Rebecca Mathews, Tyler Zapata; great-grandchildren: Caiden, Sautter, Hennessey, Gwen, Kate and Ellowyn; her brothers, Robert Hillabrant and Joel (Jill) Hillabrant.

In addition to her parents and husband she was preceded in death by her brothers, Richard and Charles (Sally) Hillabrant; sister-in-law, Linda Hillabrant.

A memorial service will be held at Leroy Evangelical Covenant Church, 201 E. Cherry St. in Leroy on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. with lunch to follow. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 11. 1:00 PM.

Leroy Evangelical Covenant Church

Tribute Wall

KS

“ How many people can say that they remained friends with their kindergartner teacher? Well, I did.... No matter how she was feeling, my dear Harriet always welcomed me with a smile and hug and genuine happiness to see me (or, so she made me feel). Oh, how I am going to miss her laugh and comforting presence. Earlier, I was crying...now, a smile as you look back at me from a photo. May you and Del enjoy a wonderful next chapter.... (Now crying, again...geesh...that should have you smiling)! Love you both....

Karl Strunk - March 11, 2023 at 05:29 AM

KF

“ Mrs Matthews was mine and my brother kindergarten teacher. Sweetest lady you would ever meet. A contagious smile. For one of our graduation parties she gave us the Dr Seuss book "Oh the places you will go" such a thoughtful and uplifting book. Neat idea for a graduation gift, especially from one of the nicest teachers. Sincerest condolences to all the family members 🙏❤️

Krystin (Jacobs) Favor - February 17, 2023 at 03:12 PM

TC

Loved Mrs Matthews! She was a genuine one of a kind. Taught all 3 of our kids kindergarten and started them off on the correct path to school! And yes, the Dr Seuss "oh the places you will go" great gift autographed by one fine human being! So honored to know such a lady! Condolences to all the family!

Tina Champion - February 17, 2023 at 11:30 PM

BJ

“ Harriet was such a treasure to work with. She truly cared about every one of her students. Her kindness towards others was unmatched. She leaves a beautiful legacy and will be remembered fondly by those who's lives she touched. My condolences to the family.

Brenda Jolly - February 14, 2023 at 08:57 PM

CP

“ So many joyful memories of working with Harriet and all the staff at school. It was like being with family. We send our love and sympathy for your great loss.

Carlton and Shelby Plyler - February 14, 2023 at 04:20 PM

SC

“ My Deepest Sympathies to the families! Harriet was one of my favorite teachers! Even after graduating High School, she remembered me and always had a kind word and a hug to offer.

Sherry Chilson - February 14, 2023 at 03:36 PM

EA

“ Teaching with Harriet was just fun. We shared so many laughs and hugs. Her smile was contagious and her stories hysterical. She made a classroom a wonderful place to be. Her love and her heart where with every student that passed through her classroom door. You are missed , Harriet.

Ellen Anderson - February 14, 2023 at 03:35 PM

JM

“ We offer our sincere condolences on the passing of your dear mother. May God surround you with strength, love and treasured memories of her life.

Jerry & Diane Leavell, Jenison, MI - February 14, 2023 at 10:13 AM

CS

“ Harriet was a wonderful teacher who was loved by all. She will be missed by all who knew her.

carla (Britt) Smith - February 14, 2023 at 07:03 AM

PH

“ She was never Harriet to me. She was always Mrs. Mathews even these 48 yrs later. She was one of my favorite teachers. One of my favorite people. Someone who I had the most respect and love for. My deepest condolences for the loss of your beautiful, inside and out, Mom. Pamela Keller Hall

PAMELA HALL - February 13, 2023 at 04:26 PM

PB

I send my condolences to the family. Harriet Mathew's was a wonderful person and a great teacher to all my boys! I don't know what else to say. A kind person and friend!

Phyllis Barber - February 14, 2023 at 05:36 PM

BS

Harriet was a wise and wonderful lady, always ready to laugh with you or listen if needed. She will be missed by all who knew her. Definitely an empty place in my heart. My prayers are with her large and loving family.

Betty Strunk - February 17, 2023 at 12:25 PM

DJ

Oh where to begin!!! She was one of the first gentle, christian souls I met when we moved up here. She had both of my kids, a year apart, in kindergarten and shared the knowledge of how different they where!!! I could always plan on a hug when I saw her and a smile that was sooo contagious!!! We are blessed to have had such a wonderful lady influence so many of our children throughout the years!! She will be miss by MANY!! Prayers for her loving family is this tough time. Hugs to you!! Denise Jacobs

Denise L Jacobs - February 18, 2023 at 06:36 AM