



Hiltje Diane Brunk

January 3, 1943 - March 16, 2013

Hiltje Diane (Sluiter) Brunk went home to be with her Lord Saturday, March 16, 2013 after a lengthy battle with Lewy Body Disease at her daughter's home with family and friends gathered by her side. She was 70 years young. Hiltje was born January 3, 1943 to Simo and Gertrude (Fisher) Sluiter in Cadillac where she was raised and raised her family as well. She was a homemaker and had also worked at Oleson's Market in Cadillac for a number of years. She moved to Tampa, FL in 1983 and later to Dade City where she resided until 2003. She moved back to Cadillac and worked at Mr. Foisie's Pasties until she moved in with her daughter and grandson in 2008.

Hiltje loved gardening, sewing, building and cooking. She was incredibly creative and had a knack for decorating, poetry, and creating anything beautiful. She had beautiful gardens, canned the produce she grew, sewed clothing and loved making Halloween costumes for her children and herself and later started sewing and renting costumes as a side business.

She was a wonderful cook and baker and was the queen of do-it-yourself projects. Her children fondly knew her as "Mrs. Clean" as it was rumored that you could eat off her floors. Hiltje was a caring, generous and strong woman with a great sense of humor that she kept right until the end. She brought much joy to those around her in her final years. We will miss our momma, grandma, sister and friend.

She is survived by son Kerry L. Brunk of South Haven, daughter, Rae A. (Brunk) Berwald of Cadillac; sisters: Nancy Duncan of Altus, OK, Schondra

(Phil) Mantzke of New Port, Richey, FL; brother, Archie (Gene) Sluiter of Lake City, MI and the apple of her eye, grandson Cameron Berwald of Cadillac plus many nieces, nephews and friends .

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters: Theresa Sandelius, Judy Spencer, Julia Nienhuis and brother, George Sluiter.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, March 23, 2013 at Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac with Rev. Bryan McConnell officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service. Burial will take place at Lucas Cemetery, Missaukee County. Memorial contributions may be made to: Lewy Body Dementia Association, Alzheimer's Association, Wexford-Missaukee Council on Aging, or Footprints in Time Adult Day Center in Lucas, MI. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com

Tribute Wall

A(

“ Blessings to all of you. We were friends from before school, Hiltje lived across from my grandma, passed high school. She moved I moved and we lost touch. I wish I had known she was back in town, would love to have gotten together. A wonderful kind friend.

April Anderson/Smith (Rudolph) - March 28, 2013 at 10:06 PM

CO

“ I was sad to hear of Hiltje leaving us. We grew up together just a couple blocks from one another. We were good friends and spent a lot of time together and I seemed to always be hanging out at her house. I introduced her to Jerry and stood up with them when they married. I also lived in FL and Hiltje and daughter came to visit me at work one day. I wish I had known she had returned to Cadillac. I returned the same year as Hiltje and would have stayed in touch with her.

Saying Goodbye to old friends is like saying goodbye to our past and the past is the best part of life. God Bless You Hiltje and heal the hearts of your family. Birdi-

Carol (Burton) Ottinger - March 26, 2013 at 10:19 AM

TA

“ Not many can do what you did Rae. And I think the extra time with your mom made her last years so much more special for you both. I know it was not easy for you, and there were unforeseen challenges along the way. But you and Cam both went above and beyond to make sure your mom had the very best care, and love and respect. I'

m very glad to have met her and now you have very special memories to carry with you. She will always be close to you both, and watch over you. Never doubt that she loved you so very much and appreciated you in every way. Love you Rae... Big Huggs.

Tammy Adams - March 23, 2013 at 01:25 AM

CN

“ We grew up together and I will always have the most wonderful memories of Hiltje, always kind to me. I'

m glad she'

s Free and you all have cherished memories.

Connie Wilson Newell - March 19, 2013 at 02:57 PM

MG

“ My heart aches to know that one of my dearest friends is saying goodbye to her mother at the end of such a long illness. I so much admire the daughter you'

ve been and the love you and Cameron surrounded her with.

Mona Garvin - March 18, 2013 at 09:23 PM

S(

“ A friend since childhood and always in my heart. Love you sweet friend.

Stella M Stroh (Cochrane) - March 18, 2013 at 08:14 PM

SP

“ *Sorry to hear about your loss. Glad that you have such fond memories. God Bless ALL of you.*

Sandi Fisher Presler - March 18, 2013 at 07:38 PM

RA

“ *Miss you Momma!! Muuaaaghhh!!*

Rae - March 18, 2013 at 06:15 PM