



Mary L. Dillon, Ph.D

April 2, 1941 - May 23, 2011

Mary L. Dillon, Ph.D

Mary Dillon, of Cadillac died at home on Monday, May 23, 2011.

Mary was born in Rochester, Minnesota on April 2, 1941 to Vearl and Glenn Bundy. She lived in Cadillac since 1967 and was a teacher until 1980. She was a Professor and Department head of the College of Education and Arts and Sciences at Ferris State University for 18 years, specializing in early childhood education. She held Master's degrees in Child Development as well as in Marriage and Family Therapy, and earned a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1991.

Mary taught swimming lessons in Cadillac for over 30 years, and in 1999 founded Berkana, an integrative healing practice, where she was also a practitioner. She was an experienced family counselor, a certified Spiritual Director, and a 5th degree Reiki Master. Mary was also an active member of the community and a generous philanthropist, involved in many local organizations such as the YMCA, Women's Giving Circle, Oasis, and the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Mary was married to Tom Dillon, now deceased, and is survived by: daughters Kelly McCann, of Cadillac, Jodie Baltazar and her husband Jarek Kupsc, of

Warsaw, Poland, Lisa McCann and her husband Jack Lile, of Littleton, Colorado; son Michael McCann and his wife Lyn McCann, of Huntington Beach, California; sisters: Betty Langeberg, Nancy Briske, and Sue Eslinger; and brothers: Jerry Namaste and Danny Bundy; by grandchildren: Sophi Mahmood, Amanie Mahmood, Tanya Mahmood, Michael Hisham McCann, Kasper Baltazar Kupsc, Katherine McCann, Jack McCann, and Will McCann; and many, many friends.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 25, from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Peterson Funeral Home, 205 East Cass Street in Cadillac. A memorial service will be held 11:00 AM Thursday, May 26 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 200 Harris Street in Cadillac. Mary had a benevolent and giving spirit. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to your favorite charity. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

WF

“ Thank you for being a mentor, and a friend.

Wanda Fedorowicz - May 31, 2011 at 05:48 PM

MJ

“ Mary, You were a wonderful and positive friend, mentor, and colleague. I wish that we had more time.

Michelle Johnston - May 31, 2011 at 10:56 AM

WB

“ Lisa, Jodie, Kelly and Mike, I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a kind, lovely lady and she will be missed by many. My thought are with you.

Wendy Myers Bulovas - May 27, 2011 at 08:54 AM

LJ

“ Mary's spirit will forever be a part of Tot's Place Child Development Center; which was her vision and passion during her years at Ferris State Univeristy. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family during this time. May you find comfort in knowing the lasting legacy Mary has left behind.

Lori Johnson - May 26, 2011 at 10:18 AM

PL

“ I will truly miss coffee time with Mary. She was a lovely, lovely woman.

Peg Lutz - May 26, 2011 at 07:38 AM

LM

“ I only recently met Mary this past winter. What a delightful woman. She hugged me so tight the first we met. I loved to listen to her. She will be missed.

Linda Maneke - May 25, 2011 at 07:59 PM

JV

“ Sometimes the questions are complicated but the answers are simple. -Dr. Suess
Mary had an easy way of making complicated issues simple and positive. Among other great traits, Mary had spirit, insight, intellect and a wonderful warmth. She adored her children and grandchildren and was an amazing advocate for our community. I don't have many friends my parents' age but I count Mary as one. She had a way of relating and connecting to people. As a child she taught me to swim and much later she taught my children to swim. Mary will be missed but her spirit will be with the community for a long time.

julie Valice - May 25, 2011 at 11:18 AM

LS

“ I have always enjoyed bumping into Ms Mary at different Cadillac events or just strolling downtown. Her peaceful and loving spirit shined always. I will miss her greatly.

Lorie L. Sorensen - May 25, 2011 at 09:34 AM

MK

“ Mary was a beautiful woman with great insight & gentleness, who enlightened us by knowing her. She lived the fruits of the spirit~gentleness, joy, patience, kindness, and love^a.

Marilyn Keigley - May 25, 2011 at 08:11 AM

RF

“ Mary was a delightful and gracious person, a wonderful teacher, and a great role model. Students adored her. The world is a better place because of Mary. Her knowledge and smile will live on forever in her many students.

Robert Friar - May 24, 2011 at 10:48 PM

RD

“ Live a life as a monument to your soul.____ Ayn Rand Mary you did this!

Rick Duffett - May 24, 2011 at 09:17 PM

CH

“ I knew Mary at FSU, when I arrived in 1986, and she was such a model educator and professional mentor to me. She was so active and engaged as a teacher, and it was clear she loved her work and her students. She has been missed at FSU since her retirement, and she will be deeply missed by so many saddened by her passing. Heartfelt sympathy to all her family at this time.

Christine Vonder Haar - May 24, 2011 at 08:09 PM

JB

“ Mary, our hearts hurt knowing you had to go; we plan to see you in the afterglow. You now are free of pain and Earthly woes. Your family can be proud to know, you made a lasting difference; they will continue to reap what was sowed...Love and blessings....

Julie & Jack Bonkowski - May 24, 2011 at 02:38 PM

RV

“ In AK and sorry we can't see the family. We knew Mary well and will miss her.

Ron & Ann Vaughan - May 24, 2011 at 01:35 PM

BM

“ *Mary's life is an inspiration to us all. With much love and May the Blessings Be.*

Brian Meek - May 24, 2011 at 12:54 PM

CK

“ *Sunny Yellow, we will miss you. You have been an inspiration*

Carole Kosanovich - May 24, 2011 at 10:51 AM

JA

“ *A beautiful woman and sweet soul. I miss and love you.*

Jessica Aguilera - May 24, 2011 at 10:01 AM

NH

“ *What an amazing woman and wonderful legacy. My heart goes out to her beloved family.*

Nicole Hamner - May 24, 2011 at 09:16 AM