



Merle Beatrice Kennedy

February 8, 1929 - November 19, 2014

Merle Beatrice Kennedy went to our Lord peacefully on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at her home while surrounded by her family. She was 85 years old.

She was born February 8, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan. The daughter of Fredrick and Helen (Kelly) Woodford, she graduated from Mackenzie High School in 1947. On February 5, 1950, Merle married her lifelong partner and beloved husband, Ray Kennedy. She worked at J.L. Hudson's and Henry Ford Hospital until her retirement in 1985. She was also a major leader for the Girl Scouts on the west side of Detroit. Most importantly in her life, Merle was a lifelong homemaker and had a smile that lit up any room she entered.

Merle is survived by her husband of 64 years, Ray, her brother, Mike Woodford, three sons, Jim Kennedy, Bob (Terry) Kennedy, and Mike (Cheryl) Kennedy, along with her three daughters, Janet D'Annunzio, Nancy Kennedy, Sue (Dave) Gruber.

She is also survived by her adoring grandchildren, Rachel (JJ) Jabbour, Danielle Kennedy, Katie Kennedy, Meghan (Dave) Jones, Sean Kennedy, Shelby Kennedy, Brandon (Danielle) Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Becky (Scott) Brown, Jennifer (Jassim) Al-Mamory, John (Carol) D'Annunzio, Kayla Kennedy, Chris (Amanda) Gruber, and Jake Gruber.

She is also survived by her 17 great-grandchildren, along with several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Helen and Fredrick Woodford, along with her brother, Fred Woodford, and her two sisters, Kay and Nancy Woodford.

The family would like to thank Hospice of Cadillac for their care of Merle, with a very special thank you to Xan, her home health care aid of many years. A memorial to celebrate Merle's life will be held in Cadillac on Saturday, May 16, at 3:00 pm. Any donations to Hospice or the Humane Society in her honor are appreciated.

The family is comforted in knowing Merle is now in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ *rest in peace Aunt Merle, you have alot of love waiting for you up in heaven...*

James Wells - October 07, 2025 at 10:31 PM

AM

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Rest in peace Merle*

Al and Marie McCoul - November 24, 2014 at 10:26 AM

SF

“ *We are thinking of you during this difficult time.*

Stan and Ian Foster - November 22, 2014 at 06:45 PM

RB

“ *Our prayer is that your fond memories of Merle soften the sadness of your heart.*

Randy and Sue Boike - November 22, 2014 at 10:58 AM

XA

“ *I am so thankful that I got to meet this wonderful family. They treated me as one of their own. I have so many special memories. Rest in peace Merle I love you.*

Xan - November 22, 2014 at 08:59 AM