



Virginia Mackey

February 10, 1938 - November 14, 2024

Virginia Mackey, lifetime Cadillac resident and community stalwart passed away peacefully November 14, 2024. She was 86.

“Gin” was well known for her years of involvement in the community. On the board of trustees for what was then Mercy Hospital and her work for nearly 40 years with the Michigan Department of Corrections, where she retired as probation and parole agent.

She carried on the work of her father, Harvey Pell, keeping a watchful eye on his multi-million dollar gift to the hospital. She was active in St. Ann’s Parish for many years, serving on the parish council and as a eucharistic minister and singing in the choir with her daughter-in-law Debby.

Born February 10, 1938, Gin graduated from Cadillac High School. She met her forever love, Robert Mackey on a blind date and they were married in 1958, a union that lasted nearly 50 years until his death in 2008. While working full time and raising her two children, she graduated from Kirtland Community College and Spring Arbor College. She later acquired her second Bachelor’s Degree from Aquinas College, where both her daughter Helen and granddaughter Kate also graduated.

She found pleasure working with students, serving as a Girl Scout leader and

later as a reading tutor for the Wexford Missaukee Career Tech Center. She was very involved in local 4-H. Despite her lack of equestrian experience, she headed a 4-H horse club, organizing clinics so the 4-Hers could bring their horses for farrier services and vaccines.

Her life was filled with community work. In addition to her hospital work, she hosted German exchange students, was a Mercy Associate in support of the Sisters of Mercy, and served on the Cadillac Wexford Public Library Board of Directors. There were even times when, while volunteering for her credit union, that she'd take her young children to the office to help stuff envelopes. She served on the loan committee for years.

Always there with a quick laugh and a sharp retort, Gin loved to sing and could dance a polka, fox trot, schottische or anything else Bob wanted. Gin was always ready to give folks a second chance, but clearly did not suffer fools. Her grandchildren knew her as the fun grandma. One grand-niece recalls her Aunt Gin teaching her how to snap a towel. And she wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty, helping her husband build two houses and renovate several others

She was an avid collector of salt dips and salt spoons, and she loved to garden and care for her wide array of pets that ran the gamut from horses to cats, dogs and the occasional duck. Her loving favorite, Bob the Beagle, has a new home with her son David and patient daughter-in-law Debby.

Gin's love for her family meant that they got to go with her as she traveled, taking trips with their motor home and flying to Maui for her annual two-week visit.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, her three sisters – Patty, Nancy and Mary – all while they were still in their 50s, and her faithful parents,

Helen and Harvey Pell.

She is survived by her children, Helen (James) Lehman and David (Debby Brinkman) Mackey; four grandchildren, Kathryn (David) Dobrzelewski, Dominic Lehman, Ben Mackey (fiancé Casey Fitzgerald) and Molly (Adam) Nelson; four great grandchildren, Harvey and Theo Dobrzelewski and Noah and Grace Nelson, her brother-in-law Dick Mackey, Bob's twin sister Bonnie Meyer, many treasured nieces and nephews and her devoted friend Cindy Rose. Credit for the obituary goes to her longtime friend and AP journalist Lolita C. Baldor.

Visitation will be at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services Thursday, Nov 21st, 5-7 p.m. and at the church beginning at noon Friday. The funeral service will be at St. Ann Catholic Church Friday, Nov. 22nd, at 1 p.m. with Fr. Michael Janowski officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Cadillac Wexford Public Library, to help furnish the teen center. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
info@petersonfh.com

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Ann Catholic Church
800 W 13th St
Cadillac, MI 49601-9281
(231) 775-2471

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Thinking of you Helen.*

Betty Molitor - December 20, 2024 at 03:35 PM

RA

“ *Ryan, Lynnette, and Ali purchased the Sweet Ten derness for the family of Virginia Mackey.*



Ryan, Lynnette, and Ali - November 19, 2024 at 07:23 PM

KH

“ *God bless the amazing and strong Mackey Family. Ginny didn't know a stranger. She was so welcoming, friendly and smart. She and Bob were servants to the Cadillac community and they passed this "service to others legacy" on to both Helen and David who have spent their careers helping people and lifting them up.*

Katy Lee Huckle - November 19, 2024 at 04:33 PM

EM

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. Ginny will be missed. We were cousins by marriage. I rode the school bus with her sisters, Nancy ad Mary. Her Mom, Cecil Soukup was sister to my father in law and I worked with her Dad, George Soukup at Consumers Power. I did not know her step mom, Jean Soukup. Am friends with her half brother, Jim and his wife, Kathy.I do not know her half sister, Kathy. .Small world. We will miss her.*

ELSIE L MOORE - November 19, 2024 at 01:50 PM

RR

“ Dear Helen, David and families,
Oh, the memories of your dear parents!!! As hard as it for you to say
goodbye, it has to be comforting to know they are together for all
eternity!!! May our loving God welcome Ginny to heaven. Be
assured of my prayers for you all during this difficult time.
Lovingly in Mercy,
Rita Epple, RSM

Rita Epple, RSM - November 19, 2024 at 10:02 AM

HL

Thanks, Sister. We are indeed comforted by your kind words. David
and I really appreciate it.

Helen Mackey Lehman - November 21, 2024 at 06:34 AM

VL

“ I was on the Cadillac Wexford Public Library board with Ginny. The
insights she shared were helpful and we enjoyed her company. We
will miss her. Vicki Long

Vicki Long - November 19, 2024 at 10:01 AM

MM

“ As a Mercy Associate with the Sisters of Mercy, Ginny was
appreciated for her devotion to her local community and the gift she
brought to the rest of the Michigan Associates. She will be greatly
missed.

Mary MacDonald - November 19, 2024 at 09:11 AM

CC

I knew Ginny for many years as a Mercy Associate and friend. She will
be truly missed. Keeping Ginny And family In my prayers. Cheryl
Claeys

Cheryl Claeys - November 19, 2024 at 09:32 AM

JB

“ *Janice Boyd lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mackey*



Janice Boyd - November 18, 2024 at 08:34 PM

KM

“ *I remember going to the cherry festival with Aunt Gin and Uncle Bob. We had Angel with us and both Angel and I slept above the drivers seat in the motor home. I really loved them both. Thinking of all of you.*

Kristen Morris - November 18, 2024 at 07:16 PM