



Mary Katherine Carlen

March 25, 1940 - March 9, 2021

Mary Katherine (Gillman) Carlen, age 80, of Dassel, formerly of Cokato, died Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the St. Cloud Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Dassel with Rev. Darren Olson officiating. The interment of the urn will be held at the Dassel Community Cemetery at a later date.

There will be a walk-through time to gather on Monday, March 15, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel. Those attending are asked to wear a mask and use social distancing.

Mary Katherine (Gillman) Carlen, the daughter of Claude and Katherine (Wessels) Gillman was born on March 25, 1940, in Litchfield, Minnesota along with her twin sister Marcia. The family moved to a farm south of Dassel in 1944, where they resided for several years before they moved to Cokato. Mary attended district schooling before she graduated from the Cokato High School in 1958. She was baptized and later confirmed at the Vineyard United Methodist Church in Hutchinson. She had been a faithful member of the Walker United Methodist Church of Howard Lake where she was active in many aspects of the church. If there was a need, she filled it. She sang in the choir, served at many luncheons, and volunteered her talents and time until it closed. She then joined the Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church where she enjoyed being a member of the bell choir and serving at lunches. She was

presently a member of the Dassel Covenant Church where she continued to volunteer her time and talents. She was grateful for the friendships and fellowship at her current church home. Mary's faith was very important to her.

On February 7, 1959, Mary was united in marriage to Harlund Carlen at the Walker United Methodist Church in Howard Lake. They were blessed with three children, Kristi, Kimberly, and Kevin. They raised their family in Cokato, and in their retirement moved to Dassel. She enjoyed the friendships made in their neighborhood, and often could be found playing cards, dominoes, or games of chance with neighborhood friends.

Mary first worked at the Cokato Green Giant plant for several years during the annual corn pack. She then worked at Fabri-Tek in Cokato for 35 years until retirement. The most enjoyable job Mary had was in the kitchen at the DC Schools. While she called herself a "lunch lady", she was lovingly called "Grandma Mary" by many students. These students made sure to be in her line, where they lovingly were given an extra scoop of lunch. She made sure they were never hungry.

She loved to spend time in her flower garden, anything related to music, polka dancing, and crocheted many items. She enjoyed baking and liked to try out new recipes for meals and desserts. She was a wonderful hostess to everyone who entered her home and always had a treat and coffee available. Her grandchildren knew there would always be a special treat waiting for them, either from the cookie jar, or grandma's candy jar.

Mary enjoyed seeing many different parts of the country with friends and family. Duluth was a special place to her, and she enjoyed many trips there with her family. Activities that revolved around her children or grandchildren were especially dear to her. She loved her family with her whole heart, and she will be forever missed and eternally loved by her many family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Harlund Carlen of Dassel, Children, Kristi

(David) Cochran of Waverly, Kimberly (Richard) Stallman of Dayton, and Kevin (Nicole) Carlen of Dassel. Her grandchildren, Nicholas (Cyndi) Cochran, Justin (Joanna) Cochran, Brenda Evans, Bridget (Keith) Tate, Jamie Stallman, Alexis (Dylan Gehrke) Carlen, Anna (David Aakhus) Carlen, and Alyssa Carlen. Great grandchildren, Travis and Hudson Cochran, Zoey, Brianna, and Devon Manthei, Cameron, Grant and Paige Cochran, Jackson and Easton Tate, siblings, Marvel (Donald) Blom of Hutchinson, twin sister, Marcia (Floyd) Anderson of Apple Valley, and Irene Krejci of Hutchinson. She is also survived by Harlund's siblings, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her grandson, Austin Carlen, her parents, Claude and Katherine Gillman, and brother, Lowell Gillman. She is also preceded in death by several brothers and sisters in law.

Previous Events

Time to gather with family

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street
Dassel, MN 55325
(320) 275-3381
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

Memorial Service

MAR 16. 1:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Covenant Church
251 Lake St.
Dassel, MN 55325
office@dasselcov.com
<http://www.dasselcovenant.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Thanks for the great memories of our school years Loiry Olson Anderson

Loiry Anderson - March 15, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ With deep sympathy, Kate and Michael purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.



With deep sympathy, Kate and Michael - March 15, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.



March 15, 2021 at 08:49 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.



March 14, 2021 at 09:42 PM

JM

“ *Joan M. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.*



Joan M. - March 12, 2021 at 09:19 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.*



March 12, 2021 at 04:36 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Carlen.*



March 12, 2021 at 01:48 PM