



Ernestine "Patsy" Schlafley

January 12, 1929 - January 7, 2021

Ernestine Patricia "Patsy" (Irwin) Schlafley, age 91 of Clare, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at the Woodland Hospice House of Mt. Pleasant. On January 12, 1929, Patsy was born the daughter of Ernest Clive and Olive (Davis) Irwin at their family home in Vernon Township. She was united in marriage to William "Bill" Schlafley on June 15, 1947 in Clare, and the couple enjoyed just over seventy years of marriage together until the time of Bill's passing on January 5, 2018. After her graduation from Clare High School in 1946, Patsy began her work career as a bookkeeper in the Clare area with her first employers including Michigan Bell Telephone Co., the Clare Hardware and Furniture Company, Marbles Auto Collision, and even a local chicken farm. However, it was Patsy's fifty-five years served at Johnston's Elevator from 1957 to her retirement in early 2012 that brought about her local celebrity—as everyone in town knew "Patsy from the Elevator". When Patsy wasn't tending to elevator business, it's a safe bet that she was working on matters involving the Rebekah Lodge, as she was a proud member for the majority of her life, and even served as the State Assembly President in 1968. She was also a proud auxiliary member of the American Legion. Patsy had a love of vacation trips with her husband Bill, plants and flowers, attending her grandkid's sporting events, and most notably her passion for taking pictures of just about anything she wanted to.

Patsy is survived by her three children Cheryl (Steve) Marshall, Vicky Louch, and Jamie (Gina) Schlafley, all of whom reside in Clare. Other survivors

include her grandchildren Dean (Alyson Parks) Louch, David (Michelle) Louch, Stevan (Brandi) Louch, Lindsey (Jeff) Simonis, Lesley (Ryan) McLain, J.J. (Jamilie) Schlafley, Tricia (Garrett) Seybert, and Angela (Ben Szost) Schlafley, and her great-grandchildren Annisten, Reagan, Ryan, Hadley, Olive, Ivy, Colin, Emersyn, Harper, Reed, Logan, Chase, Kenzie, Paisley, and June. Patsy was preceded in death by her husband William Schlafley, her parents Ernest C. and Olive Irwin, her siblings Betty Dorn and Gerald Irwin, and her son-in-law Les Louch.

A private funeral service will take place in Patsy's honor on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home with Mr. Scott Moore officiating. A public graveside service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on 12th in the Vernon Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would request Memorial contributions in honor of Patsy, to be directed to MidMichigan Home Care for the Room and Board Fund at the Woodland Hospice House in Mount Pleasant. Please send contributions to Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. For those unable to attend, services will be live-streamed on the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home FaceBook Page, and online condolences may be shared at www.stephenson-wyman.com A celebration of Patsy's life will be taking place at the Post 558 American Legion in June of 2021

Cemetery Details

Vernon Township Cemetery

8100 N. Mission Rd.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 12. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Clare Farwell American Legion Post 558
400 E. Ludington Drive
Farwell, MI 48622

Rebekah Lodge Service

JUN 12. 2:30 PM (ET)

Clare Farwell American Legion Post 558
400 E. Ludington Drive
Farwell, MI 48622

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear of Patsy’s passing. She was an amazing loyal lady. She always pressed for accuracy and neatness. She made a point to look out for those of us she worked with. As important as her work was to her, there was never any doubt her family came first. She was always very proud of each of them. She took great pride in helping others. She will be missed.

Joel Johnson - January 12, 2021 at 09:45 PM



Thanks 😊

Vicky Louch - January 18, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ Of course I have many amazing memories but I'd like to share how much pride I felt when she became a National Leader of the Rebekah . So inspirational, always!

Danny Irwin - January 12, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ernestine "Patsy" Schlafley.



January 12, 2021 at 10:55 AM

BM

“ *Beverley Mapes lit a candle in memory of Ernestine "Patsy" Schlafley*



Beverley Mapes - January 11, 2021 at 01:51 PM

RK

“ *Rebecca Sue King lit a candle in memory of Ernestine "Patsy" Schlafley*



Rebecca Sue King - January 11, 2021 at 09:39 AM

DW

“ *My favorite story to tell about Aunt Patsy is when I was in high school. I drove a navy blue Volkswagen and as a prank some high school boys put the car in neutral and rolled it under the goal post on the football field. Just so happens Aunt Patsy was there and spotted them being up to no good. Those boys got a tongue lashing that they probably remember to this day! I was of course mortified!!! Mary Shutt, I also was a little bit afraid of Aunt Patsy, I remember when I was young we were playing in the (sacred) living room. Aunt Patsy was working. I can't remember if we were throwing something or what, but a vase got knocked over and was broken. I can't remember how it all played out, but I am still living, so it couldn't have been that bad!!! (We probably blamed it on Jamie!). Aunt Patsy you were quite a gal! Vicky, Cheryl, Jamie, my heart is with you!*

Debbie (Schlafley) Whelchel - January 10, 2021 at 04:15 PM

SS

Some of my memories of my sister in law was teaching me to dance while our better half's were playing music for receptions, so many good memory's camping with the family and fun times in Florida. We will miss your hugs patsy!!!!

sharon schlafley - January 11, 2021 at 09:37 AM

MS

“ Oh my, where to begin? As the youngest cousin, I had a unique perspective. When I was young, Aunt Patsy scared me. When she said to do something, you did it! As I got older, she was dedicated. She never missed a major event in my life. Older still, she was my cool aunt. After I had turned 18, I walked in for Grandma Irwin's birthday, and she said, "Mary Ruth, you are 18 now, what would you like to drink?" (The drinking age was 21....). As I grew older, I had a lot of fun with Aunt Patsy including hot tubbing about 5 or 6 years ago at the lake. She said, "Should we have drinks?" "Why of course" I said. I learned more about my dad, her growing up on the farm, and their relationship than I had in the previous 50 years. I guess you could say that my love for Aunt Patsy grew over the years to the point where it feels like I have lost the last part of my dad in the process. I rejoice that Aunt Patsy is with Uncle Bill, but my heart is heavy that I will no longer be able to be with her until that day I join her in heaven. God Bless You Aunt Patsy for all the wonderful memories you gave me.

*Love,
Mary Ruth*

Mary Shutt - January 10, 2021 at 02:56 PM

AI

“ Aunt Patsy was one of the most loving and kind people I’ve been blessed to have my life. I could tell hundreds of stories as many of you could. Her passion for life shared with and instilled in family and all who were lucky enough to cross her path will live on. I love you Aunt Patsy- vaya con Dios

A.J. Irwin - January 10, 2021 at 02:19 PM

BH

“ Patsy was a great lady. Barry worked with her for years and had a lot of respect for her. she will be missed. prayers and condolences to the families of Patsy. Barry sends his love and prayers as do all the Henry family

Barry Henry - January 10, 2021 at 11:23 AM

AR

“ Sorry for your loss Cheryl, Vickie & Jaime, I'm sure your dad is waiting for his dance partner!

Arlene Robison - January 09, 2021 at 11:10 PM

DD

“ So sorry to hear of Patsy's passing. She always had a great smile. Hugs Vickie.

Deb Dassay - January 09, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ We were so happy to have known Patsy and her family for such a long time. The Rebekah Lodge was a huge part of her life. She lived Friendship, Love, & Truth.....and served as Rebekah Assembly President in 1968. She will be missed. Sincere love and sympathy to Cheryl, Vicky, & Jamie and their families.

Connie Strouse - January 09, 2021 at 06:10 PM

TE

I have many fond memories of Patsy, Bill and the Schlafleys family. Her fierce loyalty and love of her family were second to none. Her laughter was a very unique and enjoyable. There are so many stories of great times with our families. Her spirit will remain with us forever. Condolences go out to Cheryl, Vicky, Jamie and their families at this time.

Todd English - January 10, 2021 at 04:10 PM

RP

To the family...so sorry for your loss. Patsy had such a presence about her, as I remember, talking with her at Dad's "Jam Sessions" over the years. I'm sure she will be greatly missed. My prayers are with you all. May God Bless

Roxie Prout - January 22, 2021 at 08:05 PM