



Ila M. Baker

June 30, 1928 - December 1, 2013

Ila M. Baker, age 85, of Clare, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013 surrounded by her family and friends, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born on June 30, 1928, the daughter of Manuel and Clara (Compeau) Sutton. Ila attended Clare High School and following graduation she went on to work for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. as an operator. After the phone company, Ila worked at the Doherty Hotel as a bartender for over 48 years. She was well known throughout Michigan for her entertaining skills from behind the bar and had won the first annual "Governor's Award" for individual contributions to tourism as Bartender of the Year in 1986. In 2006 her quick wit and friendly smile earned her the honor of serving as Grand Marshall of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. She had been one of the charter members of the Irish Committee 31 years ago. Ila retired from the Doherty in 2008, and enjoyed being with friends and family, especially her grandchildren. She was dearly loved and will be deeply missed by all. Ila is survived by her daughter, Lori Duffett of Farwell, her son Arthur Brad (Loretta) Baker of Farwell, her sister, Bessie Nystrom of Farwell, a nephew, Joe (Kathy) Graves of Rockford, Illinois, granddaughter Kristina (Nicole) Haring of Clare, her grandsons, Philip (Cassie) Baker, Patrick Baker, all of Lake, Arthur Brad (Christin) Baker Jr, of Farwell, eight Great-grandchildren, and many more nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Baker, her sisters, Hazel McDonald and Marcia Ray, and her brothers, Norm and Stan Sutton.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 11:00 AM from the St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Clare with burial in Cherry Grove Cemetery. Friends may call at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM.

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanfh@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

TQ

“ I'm betting Ila already has already found a chicken farmer up in Heaven:) What a blessing it was 2 know her and have her 4 a friend. R.I.P. Darlin cuz u surely deserve it!

Teri Queen - December 04, 2013 at 07:02 PM

LH

“ My husband and I have had the privelege of living near Ila. We met her and her little dog on a walk and struck up conversations again and again. Ila always had a cute comment or a funny story to tell. She thought for days as to how Jon and I could spend our 25 wedding anniversary and then shared each new idea when we would meet on the railtrail. Her loving spirit and welcoming heart embraced the world and made it a better place. We miss you Ila Jane.

Lynn and Jon Hoerauf - December 04, 2013 at 01:57 PM

CB

“ Clara "Singer" Bancroft lit a candle in memory of Ila M. Baker



Clara "Singer" Bancroft - December 03, 2013 at 05:03 PM

WW

“ I have know Ila all of my life. She and my mother worked together at the Doherty Hotel and she and her family were neighbors. Ila was one of the most upbeat people I've known and was always fun to be around. My deepest sympathy to all her family.



William Woodworth - December 02, 2013 at 03:52 PM

CB

I worked with Ila starting in 1957 as a telephone operator at Michigan Bell Telephone. She was so much fun to work with and always had us all laughing. A very great lady.. Thoughts and prayers for her family.

Carol Beatty - December 04, 2013 at 10:21 PM