



Mary Lou Phillips

April 17, 1931 - December 13, 2025

Mary Lou Phillips

Mary Louise Archambault was born to Robert and Emily Fern (House) Archambault on April 17, 1931 and died on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the age of 94 at the North Woods Nursing Center in Farwell. She attended Clare Schools and worked as a Bell Telephone Operator until she married her high school sweetheart, Norris Phillips on January 6, 1950. They had four children together and when the kids were all in school she took the job of secretary for the Clare Elementary School. In 1972 she continued as secretary for the new Primary School until her retirement in 1987. Mary Lou was responsible for starting the union for the support staff at Clare Public Schools. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting but most of all spending summers at their cabin on Higgins Lake.

She is survived by her children Dennis Phillips, Mary Susan (Larry) Hales, Jeff (Jane) Phillips all of Clare; 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Norris, daughter Jane Ann "Annie" Palmer, son-in-law Gordon Palmer, sisters Esther (Clif) Skyring and Helen (Ed) Pudvay, brother-in-law Merle Phillips, sister-in-law Layla Phillips and brother-in-law Jim (Karen) Phillips.

In keeping with Mary Lou's wishes, cremation has taken place and the family has planned a private service. Donations are suggested to the Pere Marquette Library, or to Heartland Hospice. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be

left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

RK

“ Dear Phillips family our deepest sympathy for loss. I had the pleasure to work in the primary school when Mary Lou did. She was like the Energizer bunny and could multi task with ease. She was always about the kids! Having had the privilege to work with Annie for 7 wonderful years I know she loved her family deeply . You are in my prayers for peace and comfort in the days to come. Kim and Roger Kushmaul

Roger and Kimberly Kushmaul - December 15, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ My mom Betty Miller worked with Mary Lou for many years. I remember her smile and friendly way. She will be missed.

Jane Iutzi - December 15, 2025 at 01:45 PM

BB

“ I worked with Mary Lou at the Primary school when I was in high school (1982). I just loved her so much, and she also knitted a sweater for me once. I still think about her often.

Becky Beemer - December 14, 2025 at 05:03 PM

BH

“ Her smiling face sitting behind that typewriter in the office for the Primary School will always be my visual memory. And how she loved the Higgins Lake cabin with the kids, grandkids and great grandkids. She will be missed but will never be forgotten.

Bruce Hales - December 14, 2025 at 01:19 PM

JD

As a new mom in the school system, your mom was my best friend. She always had a smile and would answer any question I had no matter how weird. She was always the first to calm me down when my child did not behave as I thought he should. Wonderful lady!

Joanne Dana - December 14, 2025 at 03:59 PM