



Mary L. Mills

August 10, 1930 - April 24, 2020

Mary Louise “Mary Lou” Mills, 89, of Walworth, WI, passed away on Friday, April 24, 2020 in Holton Manor, Elkhorn, WI.

She was born August 10, 1930 in Rockton Township, IL, the daughter of Leslie and Martha (Bennett) Underhill. Mary Lou was a 1948 graduate of Beloit High School. She married Fay Mills Jr. on April 15, 1951 in Second Congregational Church, Beloit, WI. He predeceased her on July 4, 1995. Mary Lou was a longtime resident of Beloit, WI, having lived there most of her life.

Through the years, Mary Lou was employed by Wright and Wagner Dairy, Beloit Iron Works, Second Congregational Church as church secretary, and Junior Choir Director, and Luther Valley Church as church secretary, Brodhead Congregational Church, UCC as Adult Choir Director. Her last 25 years of employment were spent at Blackhawk Technical Institute at the Airport Campus, and later in the Learning Center.

Mary Lou was a talented vocalist, and well-known musician in the greater Beloit area, where she also directed choirs for adults and children. Other interests included being a member of the Beloit Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Beloit High School Classmates Club, Beloit Area Retired Educators Association (BAREA), the Beaux Arts Club, Beloit Treble Clef, Sweet Adelines Chorus, and the Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra’s Masterworks Chorus. She was a former member of the Second Congregational Church’s ADAH Chapter, and their Senior Choir. After 1995, when she retired professionally, Mary volunteered at Beloit Memorial Hospital. As recently as 2018, she sang with her daughter, Christine in the Chancel Choir at Linn Presbyterian Church in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Mary Lou was a woman with quiet strength, and a sincere faith in Jesus Christ, as her Savior. Family was what gave her joy, and kept her going! She began singing with her big brothers at a young age. She later took voice lessons from Bertha Zimmerman, where she met her husband, Fay Mills, Jr. Music was part of everything she did right from the start. I think anyone who knew her would agree that her family (now very large) and God’s service through music, are the two accomplishments she enjoyed the most! She will be deeply missed by all of us.

Survivors include her children, Christine (Steven) Siler of Walworth, WI, Bruce (Amy) Mills

of Brodhead, WI, Benjamin Mills of Beloit, WI, and Julie (Scott) Silver of NC; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, grandson Joshua Leigh Mills and four brothers, Homer Franklin "Frank" Underhill, Cecil Allen Underhill, Irving Charles Underhill and Merlin "Duke" Eugene Underhill.

Private family services for Mary will be held, led by Pastor Terry Hennesy of Linn Presbyterian Church, Lake Geneva. A memorial service will be announced after the Covid-19 emergency is resolved. Arrangements will be published in this paper. Burial will be in Luther Valley Cemetery. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Road, Beloit, WI, assisted the family with arrangements.

Comments



“ Julie and Family - We are saddened to hear of the passing of your mother. She was a wonderful lady, always happy and kind. Our prayers and thoughts are with your entire family. Carol Lofthus and Patty Lofthus

Carol Lofthus - May 13, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Daley Murphy Wisch - May 04, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ What a windy beautiful spring Wisconsin day! I will miss my mom sorely. I'm glad to see so many masks! Grandma Loved all of you with all of her heart, and lived with the knowledge of Gods love every day. i will see you when this disease that took her from us will not prevent us from hugging and being together. I love you!- Julie Ann

Julie - May 05, 2020 at 07:58 AM



“ it was windy but beautiful and you at least got to have some closure in this crazy time of life we are living in not to have anything would have been a lot worse I'm sure she is singing with all the angels now and will soon be teaching Josh to sing with her to God and all our heavenly families Love Mary

Mary Schwartz - May 05, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ Mary and my mother Jeanette McMillen were good friends years ago.. I give my condolences to the family. Brian McMillen



Brian McMillen - April 30, 2020 at 11:48 PM



“ I remember your mother! They had a lot of fun together! Thank you for your condolences! Blessings for health in this time. Christine (daughter)

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:28 AM



“ Hello Chris - I have memories of hearing you and your mom sing duets at Treble Clef many years ago. It was always the highlight of the program. I send our sympathy to you and your family,
Sam and Judy Paddock

Judith L. Paddock - April 30, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ Thank you so much, Judy! I so miss those days!! Singing at First Methodist was a real joy for Mom. Thank you for encouraging her to do so! Be safe and stay healthy! Christine

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:30 AM



“ Julie, Mary's daughter, was my best friend in Junior High and High School. I have so many, many wonderful memories from that impressionable time in my life from my time with the whole Mills family. Mary was always a joyful spirit and had a ready laugh & a quick smile. My very favorite memories were singing around the piano with Mary playing. She was always so patient with me. I remember camping trips, visits to see Grandpa, and so many more. Mary Mills, you had such a positive, loving influence in my life when I really needed it! The Angels are stoked to have you in their Choir!

Lisa Williams - April 30, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Aw, Lisa! What great memories you have shared! God bless you sweetie! Christine (Julie's sister)

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:34 AM



“ I knew Mary from growing up in the Second Congregational Church in Beloit. She was always a joy to be around. Her voice was always a foundation of the choir. When I returned to the Beloit area and the church she was still there and as nice as ever. I enjoyed singing in the choir with her again.

I hope the family will be comforted knowing how many people were made better just knowing her. Her voice has been added to the "big choir".

John Biester

John Biester - April 30, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Hi John! Thank you for your kind words about Mom. Singing to the Lord was really a joy for her. showing her love for people was her other favorite thing. Stay well! Blessings to you and those you love. Christine Mills Siler

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:37 AM



“ I'm the granddaughter of Mary Mills. She was a loving lady with music in her heart and shared it with everyone! She loved life and all her family children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She always had a story to tell and hugs and laughs to share. We will miss her greatly, until we meet again, love u Grandma!



Heather Martinez - April 30, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Beloit Chapter DAR lit a candle in memory of Mary L. Mills



Beloit Chapter DAR - April 29, 2020 at 10:07 PM



“ Well always remember the good times we had with her she was a honey and we loved her dearly Mary.Steve and Taft Schwartz

Mary Schwartz - April 29, 2020 at 06:51 PM



“ I know how much she loved you all! She was blessed to be a part of your lives! Stay well! Blessings, dear friends. Christine

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:38 AM



“ Aunt Mary was my dad's beloved sister. My love and prayers are with the whole family

Debbie Eckstrand - April 29, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Thank you, Cousin Debbie! When you were little Mom always got such a giggle out of how adorable you were! Such wonderful memories we used to enjoy talking with Mom about when Uncle Frank and Aunt Julie came to mind. She loved all of you girls so much! Stay well, and be safe! Christine

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:42 AM



“ Mary always shared a smile and laugh (or two). So sorry to hear of her passing. Prayers for the entire family during this difficult time. Diann Condon

Diann Condon - April 29, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ Thank you so much, Diann.

Christine Siler - May 01, 2020 at 05:42 AM