



Arleen C. Wixtrom

March 4, 1937 - October 20, 2021

Arleen C. Wixtrom, 84, of Republic, died Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at her home with her family by her side. Arleen was born in Iron Mountain on March 4, 1937, the daughter of the late Marie and Frederick Johnson. She soon became the daughter of Ernest and Ellen (Ringblom) Laskowski, who adopted her at the age of 5. Arleen graduated from Kingsford High School in 1955 and married Bruce Wixtrom a year later. They shared almost 55 years together and raised their three children in Witch Lake. Over the years Arleen stayed active in various ways. She volunteered at church, filled in as pianist for 50 years at three different churches, taught Sunday school for 20 years, and directed many Christmas programs. Being adopted herself, Arleen had a passion for foster children, having cared for ten children over the years. She also worked as the secretary for her husband's building business. Arleen became a writer at 45, having written a novel, a book, and sold more than 600 articles, stories, and games. Arleen, a registered LPN, also worked at the Ishpeming Hospital and Republic Nursing Home.

Arleen is survived by her three children, Catherine (William) Stratton of Republic, Gary (Amy) Wixtrom of Marquette, and Julia Wixtrom of Palatine, IL; brother, Fred (Nancy) Spanton of Foley, AL; sisters Catherine "Cookie" Amos of Pensacola, FL and Nancy (Larry Filler) Johnson of Princeton, NJ; grandchildren, Elise Wixtrom and Kelley Stratton, and her daughters, great-grandchildren, Dana and Rachael.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Wixtrom; sister, Helen Beers; brother, Jerry Engstrom; and brothers-in-law, Jay Amos and Tom Beers.

Visitation for Arleen will be Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. (EST) at First Baptist Church of Witch Lake. A service will follow at 3:00 p.m. (EST) with Pastor Keven Brownfield officiating.

Burial will be in Republic Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Arleen Wixtrom online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Republic Cemetery

Republic, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy M95
Republic, MI 49879

Service

OCT 30. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy M95
Republic, MI 49879

Tribute Wall

BW

“ To Arleen's family, Just received news of Arleen's passing. We have known Arleen and her Husband Bruce for many years when we lived at Chief Lake Republic she was always so friendly and a kind lady. I know she will be missed by many.
Bill & Anne Weaver

Bill Weaver - November 30, 2021 at 01:34 PM

DL

“ My condolences to Cathy and Billy, Gary and Amy and Julie.
Doug.

Doug Laakso - October 31, 2021 at 01:17 AM

DL

“ Dear Aunt Arlene,
Thank you for your kindness.
Love,
Nephew Doug Laakso

Doug Laakso - October 31, 2021 at 01:15 AM

CS

“ Julia: Sympathies to you and your family. I got to know your Mom when she and my Mom were at Evergreen. She was such a nice lady. I always enjoyed talking to her. I also learned that you are cousins with Donna Spanton. Donna and I went to school together. We were also neighbors on Detroit Ave. I'm sure your Mom is smiling down on you now, too.

Carol Scott - October 30, 2021 at 06:32 PM

RE

“ Sorry to read of your mom’s passing Gary. Thoughts and prayers for the days ahead.

Pastor Pete Erickson

Rev Pete Erickson - October 27, 2021 at 03:29 PM

NJ

“ My sister Arleen’s kindness and generosity were boundless and never ending. As for her foster children, she loved each of them as if they were her own. And her own children emulated her in caring about the foster girls and boys as if they were family too. I know that Arleen continued to help advocate for the few who needed help after they were young adults, even finding housing and more for one who had no resources. She gave so much of her life to help others as well as her own family. I am grateful to God for her presence in my life!

Nancy Johnson - October 26, 2021 at 03:30 PM

OK

“ In your sorrow, may there be peace.

Orajane Kennedy - October 26, 2021 at 08:34 AM

LW

“ I’ll never forget the times my Mom and “Auntie” Arlene would get together for a swim at Bat Lake. Or the time she told my Mom that Gary came home as a child after spending a day at our house and told Auntie Arlene, “ Virginia is such a good cook!” Auntie Arlene asked Gary, “what did you have?” Gary replied...”hot dogs!” Arlene laughed...as we ALL should. What’s every kids favorite meal? Arlene a kind, loving soul. Will miss you Auntie ❤️

Linda Wuokko - October 24, 2021 at 06:29 PM