



C. (Payant) Dormer

September 16, 1917 - July 12, 2010

Lorraine Dormer, 92, formerly of Marquette and Iron Mountain, passed away on Monday, July 12, 2010, in Ann Arbor, Mich. after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Lorraine was born on Sept. 16, 1917, in Iron Mountain, the youngest of five children of Joseph A. and Emma (LaFond) Payant. Blind from youth as a consequence of the global influenza outbreak of 1918-19, she attended the School for the Blind in Lansing for elementary and high school. She received her undergraduate training at Michigan State University and graduate training at the University of Pennsylvania.

A lifetime advocate of independent living for people with disabilities, she began her career as a teacher at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. In the 1940s she was recruited by the State of Michigan to develop a program to help newly blind adults throughout the state. As one of the first two teachers in this program, she met her future husband, Dick Dormer, around 1950.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Lorraine was a regular fixture running the coffee shops first at the Marquette Medical Center and later at the Marquette County Court House. From about 1980 to 1995 when she was in her late 70s, she served as executive director of Way U.P. Center for Independent Living, a U.P.

wide organization dedicated to helping people live independently with disabilities.

A founding member of the Marquette Choral Society and a long time organist and choir director at St. John's Catholic Church in Marquette, Loraine was active in theater and many community activities.

Loraine is survived by her only son, Douglas, his wife, Liz, and four grandchildren: Alison (27) (Dormer) Cowan of Chicago, Joseph (20), Daniel (19), and William (10) of Ann Arbor.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Erickson Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

A Mass will be said at St. Mary and St. Joseph Church in Iron Mountain at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will follow at Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Those wishing to make an expression of sympathy are kindly asked to consider a local U.P. charity of the donor's choice in Loraine's memory.

Condolences may be expressed online to the family of C. Loraine Dormer at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Visitation

JUL 17. 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 17. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

BF

“ Recently I heard of Loraines passing, and after a rather timely search (my computer skills are less than impressionable) and voila (isn't that French for "here it is?") I remember Loraine loved French and was teaching me the language or correcting my pronunciation She also taught me some braille and to this day still have my whatchamacallit that we used to write braille. Also, still have the wooden recorder she gave me to "make my own kind of music (or noise) in my bedroom on display and in remberence of her. She loved music and it brought to her life joy and happiness, and the key to a fulfilling life. despite the challenges and handicaps she dealt with. Amazing ladyusic To know Loraine was educational as well as an honor to have been her friend, and what a dear friend she was. One of my most remember-able times was when Douglas (Hi Doug, hope all is well with you) went out of town for some reason and I became her frontman or coordinator of steering to deliver Avon on their bicycle built for two I can still recall going north down Front St hill near Cresent St in Marquette and suddenly we hit something and tipped over(neither of us were hurt.....much however, many of our Avon products fell out in all directions, down the hill. It was quite the experience, but we couldn't help by be humored by it all, till we tipped over that same day, mind you, when our tire got trapped in the railroad tracks down by the lower harbor, and we went down for a encore performance! At that point, I decided that Avon calling was not for me. I could go on and on with wonderful memories of times we shared like falling out of their cherry tree, or enjoying a piano playing sing-a-song, All treasured memories with loving thoughts (and a chuckle or two) with a lady who seemed bigger than life and was loved and respected by those who knew her. She was a astonishing woman and a heartfelt friend. Thanks for the memories, Loraine

bill peterson - Marquette, MI - old friend - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Doug,
Your mother was one of those people you meet growing up who influence you for the rest of your life.
I'll never forget the great times we had when she was our Den Mother in Cub Scouts, or some of the bike rides the two of you took. Wow!
Thinking of you and your family.

Jim

Jim Mileski - Marquette, MI - July 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Douglas,
I read with sadness the obituary of your mother. I used to take her on errands and to Mass until she moved downstate to be with you. I've thought of her often, but didn't have any address to find her. I rarely ever read the newspaper so it was quite a surprise the one day I did read it to find Mrs. Dormer's obituary. She was a very colorful person and I admired all that she accomplished. Her stories of riding cross country with you on bicycle to go to the world's fair still amaze me. She accomplished far more than most of us who have our sight. She made me laugh and she also made me cry. Sometimes she would be so mean to me that I would tell her in tears that I wasn't coming back anymore and she would be in total amazement that I was offended, and she would tell me that she wouldn't deliberately hurt me for anything. I think that feisty spirit is what got her through all the obstacles she faced. I missed her after she moved away. I remember her in my prayers and I pray that God has a special place for her to rest after all her hard work in this life. She was a pioneer and I considered it an honor to have known her.

Vickie Bebee - Marquette, MI - friend - July 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dear Doug,
Please accept my condolence on your loss.

Deana Dormer Goldin - Chicago, IL - sister - July 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Dear Doug,
My deepest sympathy on the death of your mother. She was a lovely woman and I have many wonderful memories of her during my childhood. I will remember her always.
Nancy Lee Carlson

Nancy Lee Carlson - July 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Douglas and family,

With our deepest sympathy on the loss of your Mother, Mother-in-law and Grandmother.

Loraine and I shared many experiences and enjoyed each others company. She was a great help to Terry when he needed it most. She touched many lives and will be remembered with love and admiration.

Sincerely,

Billie Schuller and family

Billie Schuller - Marquette, MI - Friend - July 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM