



Elizabeth A. "Beth" VanLaanen

August 30, 1928 - March 14, 2018

Elizabeth A. "Beth" VanLaanen, 89, of Kingsford, passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.

She was born August 30, 1928 in Kingsford, MI, daughter of the late Arthur and Elizabeth (Morgan) Oas. Beth, who was nicknamed "Pudgie" as a toddler, graduated from Kingsford High School in 1946 and was a lifelong resident of the area. Following high school, she attended Northern Michigan Teachers College and then taught school in Foster City and Carney, MI. Beth married A. Peter VanLaanen on March 26, 1951 at American Martyrs Church in Kingsford. He preceded her in death in 1991. Beth was a devout Catholic and was involved in many prayer circles, taught CCD, was commissioned as a lay minister, and devoted many hours to prayer at the Adoration Chapel. She never stopped learning; educating herself on whatever caught her interest. Her children claimed she had a PhD in Vitamins and Supplements. She enjoyed family camping trips when the kids were young and then going to The Camp after it was built, but was truly happiest when surrounded by family and friends.

She is survived by six children, Mary Meerschaert of Rome NY, Michael (Vicky) VanLaanen of Stillwater MN, Jeffrey (Ellen) VanLaanen of Iron Mountain, Shane VanLaanen (Kelly Goodreau) of Mauston WI, Jim

VanLaanen

(Lois Branback) of Kingsford, Sarah (Michael) Stelmaszek of St. Ignace; 15 grandchildren, Bill Theeck, Doug and Dan Meerschaert, Casey Moskoff, Vanessa, Melissa, and Christopher VanLaanen, Hannah, Colin, Russell, Seth, Grace and Dominic VanLaanen, and Kassandra and Leo Stelmaszek; three great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Elaine VanLaanen; a special sister-cousin Eunice Glaser; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Beth was preceded in death by her three brothers, William and Arthur "Ole" Oas and Robert Rieboldt; and her sister Kathleen Sorenson.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 22 from 3:00 to 6:00pm at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will be on Friday, March 23 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church. Fr. Janusz Romanek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Kiwanis Ski Club Capital Campaign for needed improvements to the Pine Mountain Ski Jump.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Beth VanLaanen online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Cemetery Details

Quinnesec Cemetery

Menominee Street
Quinnesec, MI 49876

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & St Joseph Church
W B St
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-2046

Tribute Wall

WM

“ *My Sincere sympathy and prayers for you, Sarah and your family. Your Mom was a beautiful Christian. She was intelligent, friendly, and kind. I am glad I got to know her a little. God bless you and comfort you.
Love to you,*

Wendy and Steve Mulka

Wendy Mulka - March 28, 2018 at 12:46 AM

OW

“ *My sincere sympathy and prayers for Beth's family. I always remembered her smile and kindness whenever I met or saw her someplace. I recall her being one of the first Catholic woman promoting Bible Study for women on the Northside of town. She lived her faith and it shown brightly to others. She is already being welcomed to her eternal Home in Heaven .Keep the memories of your wonderful mom. God's comforting love be with you all knowing she is at peace.*

Orice Walters - March 25, 2018 at 04:39 PM

JF

“ *My cousin Pudge will be tuly missed. We shared so many childhood memories together. My family also, so enjoyed the Oas family reunion, in Iron Mountain, which Pudge had organized. It was wonderful to reunite with cousins and meet their children!!*

*Love,
Anna Mae Loveland Godin
Jeanne Godin Feltey*

JEANNE FELTEY - March 22, 2018 at 11:12 PM

TG

“ *"Aunt Pudge" and Kathleen were in a kinship with God that made their relationship special...and Kathleen dearly loved their visits as a connection with her father's family. She will be missed but her influence will carry on through the generations.*

Tony Grudnoski - March 22, 2018 at 03:01 PM

CH

“ *Mrs. Vanlaanen was such a welcoming Mom and so much enjoyed being around her . Thoughts, prayers and blessings. Celeste (Borga) Hilgart.*

Celeste Hilgart - March 20, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Elizabeth A. "Beth" VanLaanen.*



March 20, 2018 at 12:44 PM

MM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mary Meerschaert - March 19, 2018 at 02:58 PM

MH

“ *Someone as special as Pudge will never be forgotten. She was my mother’s neighbor for many years and was so helpful and caring to her and the entire neighborhood. My deepest sympathy to all the family.*

Maddie Tomasi Meyers Holcomb - March 18, 2018 at 07:25 PM

KM

“ *In the years since my parents passed I was especially grateful for and felt blessed by Aunt Pudge's presence, and sometimes as though my dad was speaking to me through her. She called me out of the blue once when I was living out west to impart a message of love and acceptance for the person I have become; I will never forget that. She is also a model of adhering to nutrition principles and one of the healthiest and most vibrant people I've known.*

Kathryn Morgan - March 17, 2018 at 02:41 PM

SM

“ *Peace and comfort to all of you... from the Huron/Furno families...*

Shelby Merckx - March 17, 2018 at 02:12 PM

JO

“ *Thank you, Aunt, for not challenging my explanation of why I was a bloody mess even though you knew I had jumped off the trunk of the Peugeot driven by my idiot cousin with my idiot brother by his side (between the eight boys, too many idiot memories to list; thank God for our sisters!).*

*Love always,
Jimmy O.*

Jim Oas - March 17, 2018 at 02:12 PM

RD

“ To all Family of Aunt Pudge, we send along deepest sympathy in your loss. Your Mom was one of the finest relative's that we could ever have. I have many fond memories of past get together's at your house as well as Robbin's Island in Spread Eagle. We were always welcomed by her beautiful smile and kind heart. She is now home with her Lord and her Husband and extended Family, planning another Family reunion, location to be named later. Love you!! Dick and Gail!!

Richard and Gail Dabb - March 17, 2018 at 11:55 AM

FS

“ From Kathryn Morgan (Kate) & siblings purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Elizabeth A. "Beth" VanLaanen.



From Kathryn Morgan (Kate) & siblings - March 16, 2018 at 04:33 PM