



Mary Christine Burton

July 2, 1964 - February 21, 2025

MARY CHRISTINE BURTON

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NIAGARA - Mary Burton loved roller skating at the local rink, riding her bicycle to the park, listening to Beach Boys songs on her 45 rpm record player, eating mashed potatoes and ice cream, and countless other "simple pleasures."

But above all, she loved her family and her friends. And they all loved her back.

Mary left this world on February 21 after living a wonderful, eventful and, at times, challenging life. But Mary and her family never allowed those many challenges--physical, emotional and, oftentimes, simply meeting the demands of everyday life--to defeat her.

Mary was part of what her Irish ancestors referred to as "the innocents," a group of vulnerable people who should be protected from harm. Today, we refer to these beautiful children and adults as people with special needs. And Mary was, indeed, "special."

Mary lived at home her entire life and was part of the family--attending events, celebrating holidays and participating in everyday life. That meant helping with

dinner dishes, attending Mass with the family (Mary was not the quietest member of the congregation), befriending the many dogs around the house, playing her "card match" game at the kitchen table, sharing her favorite music, giving tours of her room and her many stuffed animals, and picking up fallen tree branches in the yard which she added to the pile for the next bonfire. She loved babies and could not wait to hold her nieces and nephews' little ones when they came to visit.

She loved her daily routines: Wheaties for breakfast; playing in the park on the slide and swings; listening to songs on her record player; playing board and card games; watching TV with a special emphasis on sports (the Packers and Notre Dame being the main attractions but figure skating, too). Christmas time was a special treat, and Mary had her own tree with decorations that reflected (among other things) her love for Mickey Mouse and all things Disney.

At home, she often clutched a blanket or similar cloth item, which the family called "danglers," and gave them a good shaking. Out in the world she enjoyed car rides to the grocery store, the skating rink and McDonald's. Mary participated in Special Olympics and won numerous medals in her favorite sport, swimming. Her mom, a former schoolteacher, often read books to her that they checked out from the nearby Niagara library. She enjoyed watching softball games (brother Bob is quite a player) and attending events such as the Lions Club annual festival, church fish fries and Knights of Columbus events. Everyone in town knew her, and most everyone greeted her with some kind of affectionate salutation.

At dinner time, when the family prayed, she often remembered friends and relatives who had died, then linked hands with others around the table to sing "Amen."

The death of a family member or friend was difficult for Mary--especially when

it came to understanding what had happened and even more so, accepting it. And so it was especially hard for Mary following the death of her Dad and then, more than a decade later, her Mom. She loved them both dearly and missed them immensely. In her later life, Mary was lovingly cared for by her brother Bob and his wife, Rhonda, in the same house she had shared with her parents.

Mary was in good health until the very last few years of her life. She will be missed by all who knew her and loved her.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, William Burton and Margaret (Lally) Burton. She is survived by her brothers and sisters, Tom Burton (Tracy Ashfield), John Burton (Kristin), Betsy Burton, Kathy Huempfer (Brad) and Bob Burton (Rhonda); cousins Tahlia Burton dos Santos (Tiago), Alayna Miles (Matt), Brianna Hodge (Matt), Jon Chartier, Leigh Collins (Charles), Katie McChesney (Kevin), Megan Biggs (Chyan), Drew Huempfer, Tara Patterson (Brad) and Molly Groeschl (Loren); as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Saturday, June 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church on River Street in Niagara, Wisconsin. The funeral will follow at 11 a.m. A lunch will be served at Niagara Town Hall, located along Highway 8 south of Niagara, following the funeral. A burial service will be held at the chapel of St. Mary Cemetery on West Prospect Avenue in Appleton, Wisconsin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 15. She will then be laid to rest next to her parents.

Memorials may be made in Mary's name to the Niagara Public Library, 1029 Roosevelt Road, Niagara, WI 54151-1417 or the Niagara Knights of Columbus, 1402 River Street, Niagara. Please keep Mary and her family in your hearts and in your prayers.

Condolences to the family of Mary Burton may be expressed online at www.erickson-rochon-nashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Anthony's Catholic Church
1432 River St
Niagara, WI 54151-1599
(715) 251-3879

Funeral

JUN 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
1432 River St.
Niagara, WI 54151

Burial Service

JUN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Of St. Mary Cemetery
2121 W Prospect Ave.
Appleton, WI 54914

Tribute Wall

TC

“ *I didn't know Mary but we were Blessed to raise Crystal, a beautifully special girl like Mary. My prayers go out to your family, as I know how deeply Mary will be missed.*

Teresa Charlevoix - June 14, 2025 at 10:11 AM

KL

“ *Mary will be missed by many. I truly am sorry for your loss. I have many great memories of Mary from Wausaukee. Thoughts and prayers to the Burton Family*



Kelly Laun - March 10, 2025 at 07:59 PM

JM

“ *I'm am so sorry for your loss. The Burton family is in my prayers and thoughts at this time.*

Jeff Morstad

jeff morstad - March 08, 2025 at 09:19 AM