



## Meri DuFord

November 13, 1947 - November 13, 2002

Meri Kay DuFord

IRON MOUNTAIN--Meri Kay DuFord, 55, of 106 W. Grand Boulevard, Iron Mountain, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, November 12, 2002, while her family was by her side. Meri Kay was born April 29, 1947 in Traverse City, MI, daughter of Helen (Curry) Dean and the late Garth Dean. She moved to Iron Mountain with her family in 1963, graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1965 and went on to receive a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Northern Michigan University. She married Larry DuFord on October 10, 1970 at American Martyrs Church in Kingsford. Meri Kay worked for Family Chiropractic in Kingsford for many years. She attended the Maranatha Assembly of God and participated in the Covenant Bible Study. Meri Kay was an avid tennis player, a member of the Adult Tennis League and enjoyed running, boating and golfing.

Meri Kay is survived by her husband Larry; a daughter, Kit DuFord (Jeff DeMuri) of Kingsford; her mother, Helen Dean of Iron Mountain; two brothers, Randy (Pamela) Dean of Grand Junction, CO and Rex Dean of Kingsford; two sisters, Sandra Dean of Iron Mountain and Sue (Mark) Deacon of Clarkston, MI; and seven nieces and nephews.

Friends may call from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. Thursday, November 14th at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home and from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. Friday, November 15th at the Maranatha Assembly of God. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday at the Maranatha Assembly of God. Rev. David

Wilton will officiate. Burial will be at Cemetery Park. Pallbearers will be Jeff DeMuri, Mark Deacon, Lorne Deacon, Keith Dean, Tom Carlson and Jack Reidy.

Condolences may be expressed to the DuFord family on-line at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ At her funeral service, I wanted to say that I remember Aunt Jo as someone who was always up for a good time. She was always excited about being together as a family and made Lorne, Mallory and me feel so welcome when we came to visit. She would take us to the City Park tennis courts in the summertime and kept us entertained with cards and stories over Christmas vacations. I know that she loved having us over to bake cookies on Christmas eve and that might be one of my favorite memories with her. When I was younger I wrote letters a lot to her and there wasn't ever a time when she didn't write back. Her letters were so good :) they always made me smile. Lorne and I can't ever recall hearing her complain about anything--she was such a nice person and always giving of herself. I'm sure her strength of character came from Grandma and now I can see it more than ever in Kit. I'm thankful for having Aunt Jo in my life because she made us all feel special. As kids we felt special going to Uncle Larry's camp, and spending most of our holidays with them. I know that Lorne and Mal feel the same--we'll all miss her but her presence will always be in Uncle Larry, Kit, and the rest of my family from Colorado to the U.P.

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**Kimberly Deacon** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ To all of Meri Kay's friends and family,

*I met Meri Kay on one of her trips to Florida a few years ago. She came to Florida with several of her friends and a group of us went to Amelia Island for the weekend and to watch the tennis tournament. I was lucky enough to have Meri Kay as my "Roomie". I loved "Maddog" as we called her. She was so sweet and a good sport about everything. My heart goes out to all of you and I will keep you and Meri Kay in my prayers. Until we met again, Meri Kay.*

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**Paula Pinney** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Dear Kit and Larry,  
It is with GREAT SADNESS that I write this to you from my twin's computer. I am out of town helping my Mother and am so sorry I can't be there to put my arms around both of you and tell you how very much I cared about your Mom and your dear wife and how heartfelt my sadness is for YOU! Meri Kay was such a SPECIAL gal and was always so positive and cheerful and had such a strong and abiding faith in our Lord! I loved knowing her and considered her a very good friend. I so enjoyed our tennis days together and "Madd Dog's" competitive spirit. We spent many hours on the courts both in Iron Mt. and at tennis tourneys downstate and then that wonderful trip to Amelia Island. Golf was also such FUN and we shared so many laughs as we always strived to hit that ball longer and STRAIGHTER! My MANY tears are for ALL of us but I am also CERTAIN we'll see Meri Kay in our heavenly home. Until that day I will miss her TERRIBLY. I sensed something wasn't quite right but I did what Meri Kay requested and that was to "keep this between you and me and pray for healing"! That is just what I did and I'm happy she is now truly HEALED! It is with a very HEAVY HEART that I am thinking of you all today. I'll talk to you when I get home. Please know that both Dave and I are thinking about you and your entire family and that we care deeply. Love, Mary AND Dave Johnson

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Mary Johnson - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ To all of Meri Kay's family and friends, It is really hard to say "Goodbye" to a dear friend and our one and only "Mad Dog". (This nickname is meant with all of the love and affection in the world) The better you got to know Meri Kay, the more you liked her. Thats a wonderful thing to say about anyone. She never realized how good a tennis player she really was. She was a very intelligent and classy lady with a strong faith in the Lord. She had a great dry sense of humor and was never one to gossip. I know that I will be shedding many tears for her today and maybe it would be easier for me if I could actually be there with all of you. I know that she is in "Tennis Heaven" playing the game we love once again. Coach and friend, Phyllis

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**Coach Phyllis** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I am so sorry about my dear cousins passing. I wish I could be there for the family. My sympathy to Helen, Sandy and the rest of the family. God bless

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**Dick Schultz** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dear Kit and Larry, We were so sad to hear about Meri Kay (Maddog). What a wonderful person she was to know. I was so scared of her when we first met but it did not take long to create a very close bond. I had so much fun and laughs with her. When she came to Fla. to visit me and go to the Baush & Lomb we enjoyed and shared so much with each other. We was such a deep caring friend, my whole family and I will miss her greatly. Your family will be in my prayers and I will celebrate Meri Kay being in heaven sitting with Jesus and all her loved ones that have gone before. Our deepest sympathy, Linda and Jeff Windham and Kristina Dease.

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**Linda Windham** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ Dear Kit & Larry, my heartfelt sympathy is with you and your family. Meri Kay was a wonderful person and she will be missed terribly by me and everyone else that knew her. She was so much fun to be with playing golf and tennis, and especially on our trips. She helped me to have great faith. This world will never be the same without her, but thankfully we can look forward to seeing her in Heaven, where she is happy and healed. God Bless

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**Freda Halley** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Larry and Kit,  
I just was informed of Meri's (your Mom) passing. I would like to let you know you are in my prayers during this sad time. I also noticed that Meri was a Christian. John 3:16 says that "For God so loved the world that He sent his Son and whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Scripture tells us that God has a place for us and that place is beautiful beyond our human comprehension. What a joy to know Meri is now realizing that beauty! The passing of a loved one is never an easy thing, as we miss them so much. However, we have the assurance that we will all be together again in the presence of the Lord.

God Bless,

Jim Hagerty Rockford, Illinois

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**Jim Hagerty** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Dear Kit and Larry,

*I am so sorry to hear about beloved Meri Kay. She was a great woman. I always had fun playing tennis with her. She will be sadly missed. I am not sure if I can come to the funeral. My daughter, Cathleen has the flu. So sorry!*  
*SUE (TIRSCHER) GRABER*

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**Sue (Tirschel) Graber** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *I was extremely saddened to hear of Mary's Passing. I enjoyed many years of tennis playing with her back in the 90's. She was always a real competitive player. I feel better for having known her. May mine and my family's sympathys be with you during this trying time.*

*God Bless*

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**Paul Simone** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *Dear Larry, Kit, and Family, We are so shocked and sad to hear of our good friend Meri Kay's passing. We had so many good times and memories, especially involving tennis and in our travels. I know all of the tennis community will miss her dearly. She was a fine tennis player and a classy lady both on and off of the tennis court. I am so grateful to have known her in our special way. It is so hard to say goodbye to a good friend, but there is no doubt that she is now at peace with the Lord.*

*We are sorry that we will not be able to attend the services as we are in Florida, but we want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you all. With our deepest sympathy, Chuck and Phyllis Laurila*

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**Phyllis and Chuck Laurila** - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM