



Midge Ryan

November 29, 1947 - August 10, 2019

Midge Ryan, 71, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

Midge was born on November 29, 1947 in Detroit, daughter of Lucian and Ann (McKay) Keppel. She was raised in the Detroit area and graduated from Cooley High School in 1965. Midge continued her education at Oakland University where she graduated in 1971, and eventually earned her Master's Degree in Special Education from Northern Michigan University in 1999.

On November 30, 1968, Midge married Peter Ryan in Rochester, MI. Pete and Midge enjoyed over 50 years of marriage. Together they raised a beautiful family.

Midge was a kind, loving, free-spirit, always full of positive energy, and always brought joy to those around her. Her upbeat sense of humor, contagious laughter and unqualified acceptance of all people made her unique.

For almost 72 years, Midge tenaciously chose LIFE. She epitomized living each moment of every day fully. She cherished precious time with family and friends, preserved family culture, tradition, unity, and gave selflessly to all who knew her. She understood that serving others brings meaning, happiness and fulfillment. She was generous and shared her time, talents, spiritual and

material gifts with all.

Midge possessed the amazing qualities of persistently finding strength in weakness, calm in adversity, talent in all. Problems were viewed as opportunities for growth. She was, without qualification, always supportive and loving toward each person irrespective of age, social status, race, creed, religion, and ethnic background.

Midge built friendships for life and developed loving relationships with everyone she met. She loved life and advocated for those who could not do so on their own, cared for all creation, and was spontaneous, fearless and joyous. People loved to spend time with Midge. Living and playing in nature and on the water was a huge part of her life. She relished sharing those experiences with others.

Midge was dedicated to a lifetime of teaching by word, deed, and example. Her teaching career spanned over 22 years, including 15 years of special education. She was passionate about the arts as cultural enrichment. She led the Iron Mountain High School Drama Club for 25 years and provided opportunities to all students for participation in musical and drama productions, which enriched the community. Dance, community choir and theater were important to her. She served as a dance instructor for hundreds of students in Dickinson and Iron Counties. Midge was also a music instructor, dance choreographer, producer, director, and performer in community activities including Badwater Ski-Ters, dance, chorus, and community theater.

Midge taught us how to love unconditionally, live life to the fullest, never miss an opportunity and do all things with a positive attitude. Her caring nature and love for students made the Ryan home a destination for many kids to share warmth, food, fun and laughter.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband, Peter Ryan; children, Peter C. (Amy) Ryan of Saginaw, Melani (Dave) Lindbeck of Gladstone, and Benjamin (Lara) Ryan of Iron Mountain; seven grandchildren, Allison, Nickolas, Sydney and John Ryan, Jocelyn and Marianna Lindbeck, and Kurt Ryan; one brother, Chuck (Beth) Keppel of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; as well as many nieces and nephews; and friends too numerous to mention.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, August 15, 2019 from 4-7 pm at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. The funeral services will be held the following morning, Friday, August 16, 2019 at 11:00 am at the funeral home in Iron Mountain. Midge's nephew, Rev. Lucus Keppel will officiate along with close family friend Chaplain Lauren Ivory Smyk. Burial will be held in Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made payable to DACF Friends of Camp Batawagama or Iron Mountain High School General Scholarship Fund.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Jean Ivory, Lorraine Siler, Arlene Lake, Mary Anne Larzelere, Martie Muzzy, Deb Reynolds, Sandy Stolarski and many others for the love, friendship, support and care provided to Midge over the past months and years.

Condolences to the family of Midge Ryan may be expressed online at www.er-nashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **15**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

MI

“ My cousin, Midge, and I had a great time at the Detroit Zoo with our children (her Ben and my Sara) almost 20 years ago (1981) when I was in Detroit for a visit from my home in Nova Scotia. It was a fantastic day and one I'll always treasure. She was such an upbeat person.

Prayers and condolences go out to Peter and their children from us. We know she is a bright light in heaven now.

- Marian (Keppel) and David Illsley

Marian Illsley - August 21, 2019 at 03:47 PM

PP

“ My condolences to the Ryan family. Midge was always so cheerful. My heartfelt sympathy to you on this great loss. May you find comfort in knowing that she is safe in the arms of our Savior. - Pat and Jim Partyka

Pat Partyka - August 17, 2019 at 12:51 PM

PW

“ Midge was my daughter's ballet teacher many years ago. She was great with the children as well as with the parents who can sometimes be harder to handle than the kids. I was always amazed how she took a group of little unrefined dancers and turned them into a group of performers who shined at the final recital. I am sorry for your loss and send my prayers.

Patricia Westcott - August 16, 2019 at 02:24 PM

KF

“ My deepest condolences to all of her family. I have many fond memories of Mrs. Ryan, but some of my favorites are of the two years I spent with her during Ski-Ters, when it was still on Lake Antoine. ❤️ Those were the best two summers of my life, because of her. Fly high, Mrs Ryan, you now have the wings you've Always deserved. May you Rest In Peace...



Kathy Flaminio - August 16, 2019 at 05:04 AM

JF

“ Dear family of Midge
My condolences and prayers are with you all for your loss. Midge was a wonderful lady who was a positive influence on all who knew her. Good woman....she will be missed. Again, my prayers are with you.
Jim Fornetti

Jim Fornetti - August 15, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.



August 15, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 15, 2019 at 10:06 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 15, 2019 at 07:06 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to Pete and family. I worked for Pete over 30 years ago but can still remember Midge coming in for visits during break time. God Bless you. Janet Everson*

Janet Everson - August 14, 2019 at 09:57 PM



“ *Midge was a wonderful teacher to my daughter while she was in school. Always helping her to be her best. She will be missed. Sorry for your loss.
Lynn Kramer*

Lynn Kramer - August 14, 2019 at 09:56 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 13, 2019 at 10:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 13, 2019 at 07:27 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 13, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Midge Ryan.*



August 13, 2019 at 01:18 PM