



## Shirley Ann Allen

September 15, 1938 - December 25, 2022

Shirley Ann Allen passed away on Christmas day, December 25 at the age of 84 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. Shirley died surrounded by loved ones at the Iron County Medical Care Facility where she lived for the past 5 years.

Shirley was born in 1938 in Kingsford, Michigan to the late Tracy and Eloise (Peterson) Wales. She was raised a proud Flivver, participating in the marching band and a variety of school clubs and activities. In the winter months, Shirley was an avid figure skater.

After high school, Shirley attended Northern Michigan University where she studied music and elementary education. Later, she earned her Master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan. While at NMU, Shirley played in the NMU marching band where she caught the eye of her soon to be husband, Richard Allen, out on the gridiron. They met, fell in love, and were happily married for 63 years.

After college Shirley and Richard had a short stint in the lower peninsula teaching school but soon returned to the area to raise their 3 children and be closer to family, which was very important to Shirley. This time, they landed on the other side of Woodward Avenue, cheering for the Mountaineers where husband, Richard, coached, and her three children donned the black and

gold. Eventually, she returned to her roots and cheered for the Flivvers as her beloved grandchildren took to the courts and fields.

Shirley loved her dogs, family, and spending summers at her family camp on Sundog Lake. In retirement, Shirley and Richard enjoyed traveling, hosting family meals, spending time with their grandchildren, and hanging out at camp as much as possible. She especially enjoyed taking an evening cruise on the pontoon boat, or a spin on the Mule.

Shirley was known for her offbeat sense of humor and used it well in both her personal and professional life. Sometimes colorful language could be heard while cooking for family gatherings. Despite the commentary, the meals were always made with love.

Shirley enjoyed and created music of all kinds and loved sharing it with friends and family. One summer, she even convinced Richard to go on a brief Grateful Dead tour with their daughter Lynne. We especially loved her tales of mastering the triple ratamacue in her days as a drum major in the marching band. She had a tremendous love for her family and a great and endearing spirit.

She is survived by her husband, Richard; her children, Craig (Trina) Allen of Kingsford and Lynne (Cory) Pottebaum of Salida, CO; and her grandchildren, Jacob (Maressa) Allen, Hannah (Demetri) Kostakis, Olivia Allen, Emma Allen, and Henry Pottebaum.

In addition to her parents, Shirley was also preceded in death by a son, Scott Allen and a brother, Tracy Wales.

Private family services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in Shirley's memory.

Condolences to the family of Shirley A. Allen may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Dick and the entire Allen family. Shirley was in our thoughts often. We go back a long way as roommates and teammates at NMU in the late 50's. May she rest in peace and all will be remembered in our prayers.*

*Jim & Charlotte Mansfield  
Spokane, Washington*

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**Jim Mansfield** - January 13, 2023 at 10:59 AM

WC

“ *Dear Dick, Craig, Lynn and family,  
Please accept our sincere sympathy at Shirley's passing. She had achieved so much in life within your family and professionally and is now at peace. May God bless you all at this difficult time.*

*Bill and Jan Cummings*

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**William J. Cummings** - December 31, 2022 at 09:09 AM

TT

“ *Dear Richard, Craig, Lynn and family, You have my deepest sympathy in the loss of your wife, mom, and grandmother. She will always have a special place in my heart. She loved her family deeply and had such incredible pride for all of you. She was loving, fun, energetic, and filled out days at Family Ties with such joy. May God Bless you with peace and comfort. Sincerely, Tammy Tomassucci*

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**Tammy Ann Tomassucci** - December 30, 2022 at 10:26 PM

MR

“ *Mark & Tracy Lektzian & Family & Ruth purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Shirley Ann Allen.*



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**Mark & Tracy Lektzian & Family & Ruth** - December 30, 2022  
at 03:56 PM

PR

“ *Our deepest sympathies from both Teresa and I to Shirley's family. I have many great memories of her while working at TRICO where she had her classroom, and also Teresa and I seeing her with the family out at our camp while driving around in the woods! You are in our thoughts.*

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**Pete Rossato** - December 29, 2022 at 09:43 AM

MG

“ *Dick, Craig and Lynne - My sincerest condolences on the passing of your beloved wife and mother. I have many fond memories of Shirley from working with her at TRICO for many years. She was truly a beautiful soul, which showed through her compassion when teaching persons with disabilities. She was always so proud of her family, and shared many stories with me. I loved her unique sense of humor, which was always a bright part of my days. Dick, hugs to you and your family.*

*Maria Gardipee*

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**Maria Gardipee** - December 29, 2022 at 08:58 AM

OW

“ *My sincere sympathy and prayers for Shirley's family. God's love for her and you embrace you when you need it most. Keeping you in prayer.*



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**Orice Walters** - December 28, 2022 at 12:29 PM

ST

“ *Mr Allen and Family,  
Sorry for your loss Eternal rest grant unto Shirley O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

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**Sam Trebilcock** - December 28, 2022 at 12:17 PM

JD

“ *Dick and family,  
Am thinking of you.  
My condolences.*

*Jim Debelak*

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**J D** - December 28, 2022 at 12:01 PM

MT

“ *Mr Allen and family, you are in my thoughts and prayers may she rest in peace.*



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**Mary Jo Trepanier** - December 28, 2022 at 08:18 AM