



## Susan Kay Khoury

October 4, 1945 - March 30, 2020

Susan Kay Khoury, 74, of Iron Mountain passed away Monday, March 30, 2020.

She was born October 4, 1945 to Harry Khoury and Mary (Perla) Khoury in Iron Mountain, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents Samuel and Susan Khoury and Lucille and Nicholas Perla.

Susan is survived by her two sisters Sandy Khoury (San Jose, CA) and Bonnie Khoury (Detroit, MI), two daughters Laila Raether (Mesa, AZ), and Ruth Ann Bennett (Nashville, TN) and two granddaughters Haley & Hannah Raether (Mesa, AZ).

Susan graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1963 and remained a Mountaineer for life. She stayed in touch with many of the dear friends from her formative years. Susan was very involved in the Class of '63 and their ongoing gatherings, reunions and events. She loved to host a dinner or throw a party and enjoyed entertaining. While looking through memories in photographs it is apparent this was something she learned to do with her friends from childhood.

Susan studied nursing and graduated from the Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, IL. She moved back to the Upper Peninsula and worked for the Dickinson County Memorial Hospital system for many

years. Susan started as a registered OB/GYN nurse and would often tell her daughters just which of their friends she helped to deliver. After getting her Master of Nursing Sciences from Northern Michigan University in 1987, Susan then moved on to nursing administration. She was instrumental in opening the Ambulatory Care Unit at DCH and then went on to help open Pain Diagnostics and other clinics in the area. Susan won several awards in her career including Outstanding Nurse Administrator Award from the Michigan Nurses Association in 1991, Lifetime Achievement Award from Joint Commission Accreditation Niagara Health Center in 2010.

Susan was not only an ambitious healthcare professional but an active community member. She served as a member of the Dickinson County Library Board for 24 years, was one of the 100 Women Who Care, a proud member of the local Democratic Party and a constant supporter of local arts and artists. Susan loved to volunteer or attend some of her favorite local events like the Iron Mountain Music Festival, Iron Mountain Art for All, Full Moon Concert Series, Italian Fest, the farmers market...Not to mention the more intimate groups like the Drawing Room Club, the book club, the Thursday morning "Moose" coffee klatch, and the Saturday night dinner and a movie gang. She stayed busy and connected.

Susan supported her family and all of their paths. She was a woman who loved to travel to visit her family and for adventure. She enjoyed going to the desert shops of Arizona, the boardwalks of California, to cousin's and family homes in Houston and Detroit. As a proud Arab American and founding member of the Arab American Museum in Detroit, MI, Susan also enjoyed traveling to the Middle East. A majority of the books, paintings, fabrics and figures she had collected from her world travels were on display in her home. Susan enjoyed reading, music, art, fine jewelry, fashion and beautiful works of creative expression.

Susan was never one to shy away from a good time and doing things in an appropriate manner. It is in this spirit that her daughters, Ruth Ann and Laila, have decided to wait to have a proper memorial for their mother once the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. They feel it would only be appropriate to have an event where any of her family, friends, colleagues, club members, fellow music lovers and genuine good-time enthusiasts could gather together to hug, cry, laugh, tell stories and share the best parts of Susan that will live on forever.

The family is also working on plans for donations in lieu of flowers or gifts. You can stay informed of donation and memorial plans as well as pay tribute to Susan at her Facebook page or at <https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Susan-Khoury/>

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Dear Antoinette and family;

*It is with grief and solace that I write this note to you.*

*I just heard about Susan yesterday. It came as something unwanted for me and unwarranted for Susan.*

*Throughout high school Susan and I came in contact with one another quite frequently because of our artistic talents and pursuits. I remember on a number of occasions doing a variety of drawings for the year book and various activities with her.*

*In life we all take various paths. Mine into the US Navy after graduation, and Susan to pursue a life of kindness, consideration and devotion to people she didn't even know, but helped tremendously. I do not know all of the circumstances for her calling, but I understand she assisted, and contributed to peoples lives, who in most circumstances, were battling some kind of life's inability to provide them with a break.*

*My pursuits, as did Susan's, took us to various parts of the country and mine took me to some places around the world where we lost touch with one another. But, there were times, as with so many people, when her name would pop into my head for no reason.*

*I moved to Florida and now Atlanta so I didn't take the time to attend very many of our class reunions, but at the last one 10 years ago I remember talking to Susan and I said to her "Susan, what is it that makes people realize that we have a passion for what we do?" She answered: "They can see it in your eyes." If there is one thing I remember about Susan it was her beautiful eyes that reflected what all of us should try be more of in this world, especially now; Kinder, gentler, compassionate and more interested in our fellow man than ourselves. From what I understand Susan exemplified that aspect of humanity*

*I lost my wife to Cancer in January of 2018, and my sister 14 months later to the same disease so I understand your grief and your sorrow, but what helped me through it was remembering their decades of a beautiful life rather than the moment of their passing. Take some joy in knowing that everyone Susan touched in life is what makes us immortal. Legacies are built on the number of kindnesses you provide to your fellow man and more than the number of times you go to church.*

*Again, I am sorry for your loss and the loss to the hundreds and maybe thousands of people that Susan touched in her life. I am sorry I am not there to attend the Celebration of her Life, but understand that I will be thinking of her and all of you on Monday.*

*Sincerely  
John Fronza*

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**John David Fronza** - November 28, 2020 at 09:12 AM

JF

*Please remove this notice. It was posted by mistake.*

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**John David Fronza** - November 28, 2020 at 09:33 AM

RE

“ *Deepest sympathy to all. Bonnie I remember how kind and thoughtful Susan was to you and I when we were growing up. I particularly remember she took us with her boyfriend to the drive in movie and shared her pizza. That year we were taking ballet lessons together from your Aunt Carmela. God's peace to all.  
Renee Larson Ellis*

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**Renee Ellis** - April 13, 2020 at 01:00 PM

RA

“ To honor our mother's memory in addition to an eventual memorial service, I am also working with the Dickinson County Library and local artists to fund a fitting memorial/tribute/donation for the library in my mother's name.

You can continue to mail cards to her home or just hang on and stay tuned. I will keep updates posted here. My sister will update my mom's Facebook as details unfold.

Thank you for reaching out here and in all ways. Even though we are separate we feel there is a strong connection and truly appreciate it.

Stay Home and Be Well.

Much love,  
Ruth Ann

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**Ruth Ann** - April 06, 2020 at 04:12 PM

MH

Hi Ruth Ann-

I know I speak for all the Dwarf's that we send our love, prayers and condolences to you! We had a great video chat with Laila and continue to be amazed at the strength the two of you have. Reading about your mom it is clear you are both rooted in her and she in the two of you!

With all our love,  
The Dwarf's  
Myrna, Rita, Gretchen, Carolyn and Wann

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**Myrna Hargrave** - April 14, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Ruthie and her family on your loss of such a dear sweet woman. I have had the privilege of knowing this woman since I was a child. She will be greatly missed. Rest in peace.*

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**Melissa Maki** - April 05, 2020 at 09:39 AM

RA

*Love you Melissa! Thank you for reaching out. You have been a good friend for a long time. Hope to see you again soon.*

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**Ruth Ann** - April 06, 2020 at 04:00 PM

CC

“ *My deepest sympathy to Susan’s family. I had the honor of serving on the Dickinson County Library board with Susan many years ago. She was a wonderful, wonderful lady! May she Rest In Peace.*

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**Cathy Carobine** - April 02, 2020 at 03:44 PM

CG

“ *It is with great sadness that I hear about my friend and colleague, Susan. We go back many years, including high school, nursing school and a collaborative relationship in the community. Susan was so strong after her diagnosis and never complained. She was so talented, smart, and dedicated to her profession and community.*

*She will be deeply missed by her family, loved ones, and many, many friends. My most sincere sympathy to you all. Rest In Peace, my friend.*

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**Cynthia Gordon** - April 02, 2020 at 01:24 PM

AR

“ Ruthann, Leila, Sandy, Bonnie, Sharon, and all of Susan's extended family: My sympathy to you all at this sad time. Susan courageously fought her battle with this cancer which so viciously attacked her body. She rarely complained and, as always, presented herself with dignity. As long as she was able, she still dressed beautifully, put on her make-up and all her fine jewelry, and continued to attend the meetings and social groups which were so important to her. She loved holding court with her friends at Thursday morning coffee and looked forward to life, each and every day. She was an avid life long learner, with a sharp mind. She also loved concerts, art shows, and social gatherings. She was taken from earth too soon because she had more to learn and more events on her social calendar. I am glad she isn't suffering any longer but I will miss our interesting talks and hearing her opinions (to put it mildly, she had many opinions and wasn't afraid to state them and stand up for them). I loved that we could tease her about her many dietary and service demands when in restaurants. She realized through our teasing that she could be a "pill" when it came to placing an order or demanding special treatment from cooks and servers. But that was , Susan, and she learned to laugh at herself and grow into a more understanding customer. I loved her for that. We had lots of laughs but she was a good sport. I will miss her and always remember her.

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Alice Reed - April 01, 2020 at 12:58 PM

SK

“ My Dear Susan; you were and always will be my best friend. Throughout our lives, we shared all our special secrets, life details, family ties, and even presidential debates...lol. You will be missed forever. May God always keep you in the folds of His arms, holding and cherishing you. Your infectious smile and laugh will always be remembered, as it brought such joy and sunshine into the room...you were loved by all. “I miss you so much dear cuz”❤️

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Sharon Khoury - April 01, 2020 at 11:54 AM