



## Theresa Lees

April 13, 2008

IRON MOUNTAIN - Theresa L. "Terri" Lees, 51, of Iron Mountain, went to live with her son, Matthew in heaven on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

She was born on Oct. 12, 1956, in Massachusetts.

The joy of Terri's life were her grandbabies Austin, Dalton, and Kalli. She was very supportive of her children and her family. She was lovingly called "Auntie" by many of her family and friends. Terri took comfort in her faith and was a member of St. Mary Queen of Peace Church. She was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliaries and did what she could to help the veterans. Terri enjoyed shooting pool and loved belonging to a pool league. She was very happy that she recently completed her family circle by finding her long lost brother, Mark Gherardi.

She married Patrick Lees in Racine in December 1994.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick; one daughter, Jeni (Beaver) Sandberg of Kingsford; one son, Nicholas (Kim) Granquist of Iron Mountain; one brother, Mark Gherardi of Chicopee, Mass.; her grandchildren, Austin, Dalton, Kalli, Chantel, and Tannar; her mother-in-law, Winnie Lees of Racine; two brothers-in-law, Steve (Josette) Lees and Jeff (Tracy) Lees both of

Racine; her godson, Jacob Roberts of Iron Mountain; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, "nieces and nephews." Terri was a special friend to many and will be sadly missed.

In addition to her son, Matthew, Terri was preceded in death by her mother, Rosemary Smith; her father, Dee Smith; her father-in-law, Jerry Lees; and her brother-in-law, Brian Lees.

Visitation will be Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tondin-Ross and Freeman Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Fr. Michael Woempner will officiate.

Burial will be in the Channing Cemetery.

Condolences to the family of Terri Lees may be expressed online at [www.tondinfuneralhome.com](http://www.tondinfuneralhome.com).

The Tondin-Ross and Freeman Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

DU

“ *Jeni, my thoughts and prayers are with you my dear. I am so sorry that I am not there, I just want you to know that you are in my thoughts, Love and miss you Duckie.*

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**Duckie** - April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *So sorry for your loss Pat, I think of you often and always wished the best for you. Wayne and Jence called me about your brother but I couldn't make it, he was a good man I knew him. Pat you've always been a strong man and that's one of the things that always attracted me to you. We always had a mutual respect for each other. I am praying for you and your family Unfortunately I didn't know your wife but wayne said she was a good woman. My prayers are soooooooooooooooooo with you All my love Denise{niecy} Larson denise.olson23@yahoo.com*

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**DENISE** - April 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Pat, We are so sorry to hear about your loss. We never really got to know Theresa well, but we know she was a great person. This on top of the recent passing of your brother Brian is a lot for any family to go through. Our condolences and prayers are with you and "Terri's" children. Love, your cousin Felicia and husband John.*

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**John & Felicia Murpy** - April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I would like to express our thanks for the memories everyone has been sharing with us. Mom was a very special person and has touched many lives, more than she even realized. She was someone we always thought would be there. Whenever the going got tough, she never faltered she would stand by our side, hold our hand and encourage us that we could make it through. I can't even imagine yet life without her but just seeing how many people care has made this just a little more bearable. We are all grateful for the time we had with her, we have more great memories in the small amount of years we had with her than some have in an entire lifetime. She was my best friend and she will be forever missed. Thank you again for all the support.

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**Jen and family** - April 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Pat, Nick and Jen, My heart goes out to you. I watched you kids grow into adults your mother was very proud of. Pat, you completed her whole. We all have special memories of the little things that made Terri special in our hearts. Mine is her heartfelt hugs of love when ever we came together. She left me wanting one more hug. I will miss her for ever.

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**Mike Aber** - April 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Some say that this time on earth is just us passing through to a lifetime of happiness. In Terri's life she has given us around her a lifetime already of happiness. Her sense of humor, smile, gentle touch when she tells you how much she loves you. You always knew exactly what she was feeling. I have made many mistakes, and in her eyes that was ok. She loved you for you, unconditionally. And wouldn't let a visit or phone call go by without expressing her love. I have learned from her to tell people how you feel, now in the moment you never know when it may be your last. I only hope someday I have as big of a impact on my family and friends as she has on all of us. We will always love and cherish the memories. With all my heart, Deena

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**Deena, Dave & Tony** - April 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ There is nothing that can prepare one for such a tragedy. As I sit and reminisce on all the wonderful memories that Auntie Terri is a part of, the first thing I hear is her sweet, infectious little giggle. She had the gift of humor that blessed everyone she met. This amazing gift of laughter was matched only by her unconditional compassion. Auntie Terri found true happiness in doing whatever she could to help others. Pat, Jenny and Nick I love you all very much and we are ALWAYS here for you.

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**Stacy** - April 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Jeni & Nick - I just want to tell you that we love you soooo much. We are here for you no matter what you need. Terri was like a mother to me for so long and I will miss her more than words can describe. She has her wings and she is flying above you watching over you and the kids. She had so much love to give to everyone and that will never leave any of us. Pat - I am so, so sorry. We love you and we are here for you. I know there really aren't any words that can take this pain away right now, just remember we love you. Our deepest sympathy, Steve, Kristy, Cory, Liliana, and Thomas Benoit.*

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**Steve & Kristy** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *Nick, Jen and family,*

*I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. I can't imagine your feelings right now but, I am certain you are all strong for each other and your Mother's love will carry you through this difficult time. My thoughts are with you all.*

*Jess*

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**Jess Dorey (Geniesse)** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am struggling for words...I feel such a huge part of my life is gone...we all had so many more "memories" to make. How can I be "Thelma without my "Louise" or "Ethel" without my "Lucy" (I always argued with her because I wanted to be the "Lucy") We shared a lifetime of memories and moments together, over 40 years worth, and the last 2 days have been little continuous clips of our infamous "moments" through our lives. That is the only thing that is keeping me going, because all who know's our Terri, knows that she had the gift of humor unlike anyone I have ever met. We have all suffered a belly ache or two from the laughter she brought to ALL. The biggest gift she gave us all was her HEART. She loved from deep into her soul, that was her true gift...

Jeni and Nick she loves you both so much and you have both made her proud in so many ways... I will ALWAYS and forever be here for you both as I have promised your mom many, many times over the years. My heart is aching for you both... You both gave her life's ULTIMATE gifts with grandchildren. She is one of the proudest grandma's I know. We will all be sure they grow knowing how much there grandma loves them..

Pat you know I love you and I am so sorry for the loss of your brother and now your love... Thank you for loving her..

So...for now we must share our "Angel" with the others she has missed so much and know she is welcomed with so many loving arms. We all know how much she treasured anything with angels...So I hear the "bell" ringing because the most special angel of all is getting her wings...

Love you all!

Linnie

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"Linnie" - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *Jeni,  
When Sarah told us in class yesterday about the loss of your mother there was not a dry eye in the room. I can't say I know what you are going through because I don't; but my heart goes out to you and your family. I can't imagine your heartbreak. Hang in there Jen, we are all pulling for you! You are in my thoughts and prayers.*  
Amy

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**Amy J. Gatien** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *Pat, Nick and most of all my wife Jen, how does one put into words the emptiness one feels when someone we loved and cared for so deeply leaves us? We cannot. I did not have the opportunity to be with Teri as long as everyone else, but the years I was able to spend with her will be forever engrained in my heart and my memories. She became more than a mother in-law to me, she became my freind. I miss her now and I know I will miss her forever. You had an incredible Mother and Wife and you should be happy for that. Her life ended to soon and yes it is not fair, but we had something most people do not and we need to be thankfull of that. Jen, Nick, Pat, I love the three of you and I will do everything in my power to help you get through this hardship you are going through. My thoughts are with you.*

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**Beav** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Jen and family, I cannot express in words how bad we feel about you losing your mom. She was extremely proud of all of you and loved you more than life itself. She will be missed but never forgotten. Let me know if theres anything we can do to help. Take care. Love Lynn and Bill Schultz*

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**Lynn and Bill Schultz** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ There are no words to be offered that can fill the void I know you all are feeling. Terri was so full of humor, caring, and most of all....love. I know she takes that with her to her resting place. She will be truly missed by all. She was not my aunt by blood, but she will always be my auntie Terri and I treasure all of the memories and silly moments that we have made. I promise I will never ever watch The Wizard of Oz without making tickets. Pat, Nick, and Jeni, I love you all very much and I pray that God gives you the strength to help you through this difficult time.

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**Kelli** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Pat, very sorry to hear of Terris passing. I am sure you & your family's grief is overwhelming. Terry must have been a wonderful mother & wife. She is certain to be in a happy peaceful place right now. Just wanted to let you know there are others thinking of you, hoping your pain passes, knowing Terri is at peace and happy.

*Mike Sarder*

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**Mike Sarder** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Abe Lincoln once said "And in the end it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years." Although I did not know Terri that long, I know that she had an exceptional amount of life in her years! May all your loving memories carry through this heartbreaking time. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all! In deepest sympathy, Selena Okler and family

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**Selena Okler** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LF

“*Jen and Family...I want to tell you how amazing your mom has been to me. It had been a long time since I had seen Terri, probably about 15 years, and when we reconnected this past year it was as if not a year passed between us. She was full of life, love and of course fun. We had nice talks and alot of laughter. I just want you to know that I am truly grateful to have walked beside such an amazing person and one I can always call my friend. She was always there with a smile or a hug and that will never be forgotten. You are in our thoughts and prayers and know that we are here for you.*

*Linda and family*

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**linda freeman** - April 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“*No words can say just how deeply my family feels for your family in this time of grief. I remember Teri as someone with so much love for her family and appreciation for eveyone in her tight circle. Anyone who knew Teri, knew she loved her kids and grandkids more than anything. Always willing to listen, watch and help her family grow. Tending to Pat as a devoted wife and recently, never wanting to miss church. Her life was full these last few years and she was at peace with herself. She will be here with you in spirit and she will be watching you all with a tear in her eye and a smile in her heart. Because of her you are what you are. You will always make her proud and you will always be her biggest accomplishment. God has a wonderful spot in heaven for her and we all know she is now an angel. With my deepest sympathy, I love you all. Mariah and family*

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**Mariah and Clint** - April 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM