

Mary Lou Drew, age 65, died peacefully Thursday, March 23, 2023, surrounded by family at her home in Eastlake.

Born on February 21, 1958 in Manistee, Michigan, Mary was the daughter of the late Harry and Rita (Newman) Niemerowicz. Mary attended Manistee Catholic Central and graduated with the Class of 1976. For a number of years Mary had been employed at Manistee Heights Care Center. On June 23, 1984 she was united in marriage to Harry "Dave" Drew at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee.

Mary traveled the world with Dave as he served in the United States Navy. Together they had stops in Biloxi, Mississippi, where she gave birth to the oldest of the couple's two boys, David, in 1986. They journeyed to Scotland, then to Charleston, South Carolina, where she gave birth to her other son, Michael, in 1994, and finally stationed in St. Mary's, Georgia. When Dave retired from the Navy in 1997, the family moved to Manistee where they lived until her passing.

In her younger years, Mary was a passionate bowler and a lifelong avid sports fan. When her two sons took up sports, Mary was always there to pick them up from practice, late at night after away games, and she was in the stands for every one of their home games. Later, Mary became a Western Michigan University and Michigan State University 'Mom' and enjoyed cheering on the Broncos and the Spartans.

Mary was a loving "Nana" to her two grandchildren, Carson and Evelyn. She was known for sending surprise cards and gift boxes full of treats to her boys and grandchildren.

After a courageous battle against cardiac disease Mary has left many heartbroken by her passing. She is survived by her husband, Dave Drew of Manistee, MI, her two sons, David Drew, of Kalamazoo, MI and Michael (Danielle) Drew, of Dayton, Ohio and her grandchildren Carson (David) and Evelyn (Michael and Danielle). One sister and brother-in-law, Jean and Dennis Laskey of Manistee and one Aunt, Madeleine Newman of Traverse City, MI also survive. Mary's sense of humor and her quiet, gentle and loving ways will be sorely missed by her surviving Chmielewski, Newman and Parr cousins.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Harry & Rita; her paternal grandparents, John and Martha Niemerowicz; and maternal grandparents, Frank and Mary (Wicinski) Newman. Her Chmielewski, Newman and Parr aunts and uncles also preceded her, as did her cousin Joanne Parr.

Private services were held for Mary, with internment at a later date.

A memorial has been established in Mary's name for the Mayo Clinic Cardiac Research program in Minneapolis, MN. Donations can be made through the Mayo Clinic Office of Gift Planning at 800-297-1185 or giftplanning@mayo.edu, or online at <https://plannedgiving.mayoclinic.org/memorials-and-tribute-gifts>.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee was in charge of funeral arrangements.