



Mary Katherine Shellenbarger

August 28, 1947 - December 23, 2023

Katherine Crane Shellenbarger (Kathie) passed away peacefully to be with her Lord on December 23, 2023, at Joanne's House in Bonita Springs in the company of her loving husband of 54 years, Dave, after a battle with stage 4 lung cancer that began in August 2020.

Kathie was born in Kalamazoo Michigan on August 28, 1947, the daughter of Roger Ernest Crane and Alice Jane Wilson Crane. She is the mother of two sons, Mathew David of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Daniel Aaron, of Glenview Illinois. Also surviving her are her daughter-in-law and good friend, Christy Schaefer Shellenbarger of Glenview as well as three granddaughters, Lila, Trudy, and Samantha, and four grandsons, Ben, Silas, Peter, and Jake, all of whom were loved fiercely by Kathie as she reveled in their successes and achievements. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews, sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law. She was pre-deceased by her brother, Michael Roger Crane of Rolesville, NC as well as by his wife and sister-in-law, Anne Elizabeth.

She met her husband at Michigan State University where she graduated in three years in 1968 before teaching elementary school in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, Michigan. She became the center of household activity with the arrival of her sons, and pursued fitness and bridge while joining with friends to form a dining club that came to be the "Gourmet Group". Her interest in

needlepoint led to a rich collection of elegant pillows, wall hangings, purses, and jewelry cases for her family and friends. An excelling hostess, her “half-full” attitude, industriousness, and cheerful approach to life was a positive influence on family and friends alike.

After relocating from Kalamazoo to Rochester Michigan in 1979 she joined St Paul’s United Methodist Church, volunteered in the local Assistance League, and was an active PTA volunteer, soccer, and baseball mom. As her sons became independent, she pursued a Master’s Degree in mental health counseling at Oakland University and worked as a counselor for eight years before retiring with her husband to Bonita Springs and Bonita Bay in 1999. Her golf game steadily improved in retirement, and she actively organized social activities in her Bonita Bay neighborhood while completing visits to all 50 states as well as to over 50 foreign countries. Her friends joined her in golf, bridge, book clubs, and continuing social activities as she was volunteering for New Horizons, Hope Hospice, Bonita Bay Club, and to organize various social events.

The many acts of compassion and comfort from family and friends are greatly appreciated, as their gestures and actions brought reassurance and solace to Kathie during her illness.

A Celebration of Life service to honor her will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bonita Springs with a reception following at the Bonita Bay Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Kathie may be made to the Lee Health Foundation or the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs.

To sign her guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family
Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs
9751 Bonita Beach Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Reception

FEB 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

Bonita Bay Club
26660 Country Club Drive
Bonita Springs, FL

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Sorry to hear about Kathy. the first time i met your wife, i was looking for your house in rochchester. a lady came up to me and ask if she could help. i asked for david shellenbarger and she started to laugh and said that he was her husband. she told me that he was at work. i told her who i was. she said she would call you to see if you had time to see me. then i saw her at various class reunions.

sally mase - February 07, 2024 at 09:41 AM

FM

“ From the Lemmons and the Malans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.

From the Lemmons and the Malans - February 02, 2024 at 11:53 AM

FM

“ From the Lemmons and the Malans purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.



From the Lemmons and the Malans - February 02, 2024 at 11:53 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.



January 29, 2024 at 08:06 PM



“ The Morency Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.



The Morency Family - January 27, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ I have the best memories of Ms Kathie and am imagining a great reunion among dear friends right now. Heartbroken by this loss and sending so much love.



Lori Morency Kun - January 19, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ Everybody loved Kathie....always cheerful and positive. Remember her making Christmas stockings for her family that were so beautiful .They will always have those to remember her by. Gnn y deSteiger

Ginny desteiger - January 16, 2024 at 12:45 PM

GB

“ We want you to know we are thinking of you Dave as you go through this difficult time. We were blessed to be able to get to know her. What a wonderful person!
Gary and Linda Bol

Gary Bol - January 15, 2024 at 10:22 AM

LM

“ A wonderful woman! We attended the same high school and were sorority sisters at MSU! My sympathies to Dave and family!

Linda Mittelstaedt - January 03, 2024 at 07:29 PM

RB

“ Kathie was a long-time close friend and we are deeply saddened by her passing. Our hearts go out to Dave and the Shellenbarger family at a time of grief and remembrance. Kathie was a loyal friend and devoted mother and grandmother. We remember fondly her intelligence, energy, caring and delightful sense of humor. She was extremely active entertaining friends and volunteering help and support to a wide range of community organizations. Kathie’s life was a model of active participation and involvement. She left a positive mark on everyone who knew her.

Bob and Katie Biggs

Robert Biggs - January 03, 2024 at 05:19 PM

TB

“ Such a lovely lady, always with a positive attitude. Our deepest sympathy to Dave, the family and all who loved Kathy. Tom & Joy Briers

Tom Briers - January 02, 2024 at 01:53 PM

MS

“ Dave, So sorry to hear of Kathie’s passing. She and your family will be in my prayers. Maurice Sullivan

maurice Sullivan - January 01, 2024 at 03:59 PM

JP

“ Please accept our sincere condolences on your family’s loss.
John and Judy Phelan

Judy Phelan - January 01, 2024 at 03:34 PM

NB

“ We extend our deepest sympathy to Dave and family. May the Lord comfort you with His peace and presence. Kathie will be missed here at Spyglass.
Your neighbors, Evan and Nancy Boote

Nancy Bootew - December 31, 2023 at 11:48 AM

PS

“ Please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. Peggy and I fondly remember how Kathy and you mentored us when we joined Great Oaks County Club in Michigan many years ago.
Paul & Peggy Shellberg
Naples, FL

Paul & Peggy Shellberg - December 31, 2023 at 10:29 AM

FR

“ field and carol retterer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.

field and carol retterer - December 29, 2023 at 06:07 PM

FR

“ *field and carol retterer purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mary Katherine Shellenbarger.*



field and carol retterer - December 29, 2023 at 06:07 PM