



# Mrs. Mary Lou Davis

AUG 18, 1932 - JAN 9, 2012



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## **Mrs. Mary Lou Davis**

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**M**ary Lou Davis Mary Lou Davis, 79 of St. Petersburg FL and Elma NY, passed away on January 9, 2012. The following is a letter to Mary Lou from her loving husband Dick:

I was introduced to you on that fateful night at the Presbyterian singles group long ago. The moment I saw you, I was head over heels. While I asked you to help me with a social event for the club, I had no idea I was meeting my future wife. The group voted me as "President", and voted you as "Social Director". No one knew at the time that we would live out those roles together for the following 47 years.

Mary Lou, I knew from the time we got together, that no matter what life brought our way, that I wanted to share it with you. Posed with serious questions, such as having children, or not...the answer mattered only that you would be by my side. Later, you gave me a beautiful son. He carries the good of us both. For as long as I can remember, you've been my friend and my love. Side by side we have waltzed, jitterbugged, and enjoyed life to it's fullest. From "beef on weck" and "wings", to buffets on Cruise Lines, we enjoyed food, drink, and laughter of friends.

You took care of me in all the ways God had in mind when he gave man a wife. If it weren't for you, I may not know how to dress myself today!

My world resided in your beautiful twinkling eyes, as we traveled the world and we left our mark together.

As I touched my lips to yours for the final time on January 9, all I could think of was keeping you with me. Now I realize, I don't have to worry about you leaving. You remain with me every second of every day. When I see the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico, the little green apples grow on our tree in Elma, a drop of rain, the smell of a breeze, or my face in the mirror, I see you. You are everywhere. You are my one true love. Mary Lou was born August 18, 1932, in Buffalo NY to the late Dorathea and John Benzel. She is survived by her husband Richard of 47 years, her son Russell (Cathy) of



## Obituary

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Houston TX, sisters Virginia Buschen of Detroit MI and Audrey Wheeler of West Seneca NY, sisters-in-law Eloise Benzel and Mary Benzel of Tonawanda NY, as well as a large and loving extended family. She was predeceased by brothers Robert and Jack Benzel. She was a member of Elma United Methodist Church, the Elma Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, the AMVets Ladies Auxiliary, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, the Eastern Star Lodge, and the Roycroft and Amherst Dance clubs. She, along with her husband, was a past member of the Four Squares Young Adult Group. Mary Lou enjoyed being with people. She spent many years bowling on various leagues with her sister Audrey. And, if there was a gathering of any kind, Mary Lou would be invited, making new and old friends feel good about life and its opportunities. She also loved to travel. With her husband, she visited over 40 of the 50 states, and nearly 20 countries. From her parents she learned to appreciate music, and she took great joy in playing her piano and organ. On the dance floor, Mary Lou and her husband Richard were known as "Fred and Ginger". Mary Lou's greatest gift was her unconditional love and caring for everyone she came into contact with. She had a wonderful way of making all those she met want to be her friend. There will be a memorial service on Monday, January 16 at 11AM at the Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5750 49th Street N. St. Petersburg, FL 33709 In addition, there will be a service in Elma in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Elma United Methodist Church, the Elma Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, or the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Please visit [www.memorialparkfuneralhome.com](http://www.memorialparkfuneralhome.com) for the on-line guestbook and video tribute as well as [www.maryloudavis.info](http://www.maryloudavis.info) for an additional tribute to Mary Lou.



## Tribute Wall

**Mrs. Mary Lou Davis**

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MB

**Mike And Ann Balistierri** posted:

Dear Dick, At this most difficult time I hope knowing so many people cared about Mary Lou and also care about you can give you comfort. I will remember Mary Lou as a gentle, beautiful woman, inside and out, with a sense of humor that made her fun to be around. Every time Mike plays "Mary Lou" I will think of her. Our sincere sympathy, Mike and Ann

February 21 at 9:23 AM

DB

**Debbie And Jim Bartz** posted:

Dear Dick - we were so sorry to hear the sad news, Mary Lou was a very nice person and will be missed. Thinking of you, our deepest sympathy. Debbie, Jim and Thomas Bartz

January 29 at 5:39 AM

ED

**Ed Davis** posted:

Dear Uncle Dick and Cousin Russ. To know Aunt Mary Lou was to love her. Some go through life and make little more than a ripple in the lives of others. Some like Aunt Mary Lou part the seas. I will always remember her gentle and loving way. The Davis and Benzel families have lost a treasure.

January 27 at 7:07 PM

CW

**Cj Washington** posted:

God Bless, and rest in peace.

January 27 at 3:19 PM

GJ

**Gloria J. Bus** posted:

we are so sad to lose mary lou, her bubblely personality and loving relationships with family is irreplaceable. our love and sympathy to the family both davis and benzel we are hoping to see you dick in the spring. our prayers are with you muchlove joel and glor

January 23 at 3:12 PM

GM

**George & Mary Lou** posted:

Dick, sorry about your Mary Lou; you have our deepest sympathy. George & Mary Lou Chmielewski

January 23 at 2:28 PM



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RB

**Ruth Bleckinger** posted:

Everyone here and in the Elma Auxiliary will miss Mary Lou very, very much. Stay strong Dick and know that she will always be with you.

January 23 at 9:52 AM

MP

**Mr And Mrs George Poole Sr.** posted:

Dick, My heart goes out to you. My wife Cathy and I have been soul mates for almost 55 years and we have experienced true love as you and Mary Lou have experienced. Your letter to Mary Lou was filled with Love it was a pleasure to read. You have experience the most important part of Life on this planet. We offer our sincere condolences and wish you well in the future. RegardsGeorge and Cathy Poole

January 22 at 8:52 AM

EB

**Ellen Boldt** posted:

Dear Dick, I was so saddened to hear of Mary Lou's passing. I will remember her sweet smile and what a wonderful caring person she was. My heart goes out to you and your family at this sad time. Ellen Boldt

January 21 at 1:11 PM

KA

**Ken And Debbie Anstett** posted:

Dear Dick and family, Please accept our deepest sympathies at the passing of Mary Lou. She was a sweet, kind person who will never be forgotten. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time... What a beautiful letter Dick that you wrote to your beloved wife...it is obvious to see that her spirit and vigor for life will live on through you and all the wonderful memories the two of you created will be forever in your heart...God Bless you, we miss you and Russ! Always, Ken and Debbie Anstett

January 19 at 12:36 PM

LW

**Linda Macvie (Walther)** posted:

We had many good times together. Especially with our Unit members in Bethlehem Chap. OES. My prayers are with you, Dick, & your family

January 18 at 4:09 PM



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SF

**Sharon Finsterbach** posted:

Aunt MaryLou was a warm, caring, awesome lady who truly enjoyed life to the fullest. She will be sorely missed, but most certainly never forgotten by everyone who knew and loved her. The many wonderful memories of her will live on in us all.

January 17 at 12:28 PM

CF

**Cal & Gail Fechter** posted:

Dear Dick, Your memorial to Mary Lou was very touching, we hope you find comfort in the beautiful life you built together. She was a wonderful lady and a great neighbor. We will miss her smiling face. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Russell at this very difficult time. Sincere sympathy, Cal & Gail

January 17 at 9:38 AM

MG

**Mark Gunzelman** posted:

Hello.... It was a pleasure knowing her for many years as a little boy every Thanksgiving to now whenever I have a chance seeing her. Mr. Davis, you are in my prayer and what a wonderful letter you wrote. Didn't know you were such a romantic guy. Hugs, Mark

January 16 at 3:45 PM

AT

**Annemarie Tripi** posted:

Dear Dick, Although it's difficult today for you to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory of Mary Lou help comfort you in days to come. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.....Annemarie

January 16 at 10:43 AM

BU

**Billie Unger** posted:

My Aunt Mary! YOU WAS SO GLAMEROUS TO ME. I was a young child when she was married to my uncle. I remembered her as sweet, fun beautiful red nailpolish, always smiling, gave me lots of attention. when I look at the old movies her rhinestone necklaqce wqas sparking in the lights aqnd she was so happy. I will miss the lovely person she was and the happiness I always felt around her.

January 16 at 9:05 AM



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SD

**Steven And Karen Davis** posted:

We will really miss Mary Lou until we join up again in Heaven. Our prayers and thoughts and sympathy are with you Uncle Dick, Russ and Cathy and the rest of the family. Steven, Karen, Peter, Sarah and Michael Davis

January 16 at 8:19 AM

RB

**Ruth Barnes** posted:

Hi Dick, I'm so sorry to hear about MaryLou. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Maybe I'll see you at one of the reunions. Ruth Barnes

January 16 at 6:57 AM

AS

**Amy Schanne** posted:

Aunt MaryLou you will be missed dearly...I have so many memories from swimming in gram & gramps pool to dancing to the YMCA with your sisters at my wedding and I cherish all of them. Your love of life and laughter will live in our hearts forever. Uncle Dick & Russ my prayers are with you both. Love you!!!

January 16 at 5:40 AM

BF

**Bill And Fran** posted:

Our sincere condolences. I had the pleasure of meeting Mary Lou and was impressed with her loyalty to her family and friends and

January 16 at 4:53 AM

DB

**Dave Benzel** posted:

I have so many fond memories of Aunt Mary Lou, from growing up and summer days at their house in Elma, to travelling the French Riviera! I will miss her. Uncle Dick and Russ, my thoughts are with you.

January 16 at 12:18 AM



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JP

**Janice Porter** posted:

With Dick as my older "brother", Dave and I and our two girls spent many memorable hours, days, years with Mary Lou, Russell, and Dick. We still laugh at all the adventures. Now, we'll keep Mary in our hearts and memories, and Dick and Russell and Cathy in our plans for time together and the creation of new memories.

January 15 at 5:22 PM

KK

**Ken & Judy Klumpp** posted:

All the years of knowing both of you it is still hard not to imagine not being able to see the two of you at the many functions we share together. We hope that you can be strong in this time of grief and we will see you again soon.

January 15 at 12:48 PM

AR

**Anthony Rusinek** posted:

from the moment that i moved into the apartment downstairs to the day i moved out mary lou and you were not just landlords you two were like family to me and i will miss her. your friend tony rusinek

January 15 at 9:20 AM

KB

**Ken & Nancy Burridge** posted:

Mary Lou, Your beautiful smile and gift of laughter will be sorely missed by our family. We treasure the memories of all the many wonderful times we spent with you and Dick and Russ. Thank you for your gifts of love and friendship that you gave so freely to all you met. You enriched our lives by your presence. Ken & Nancy Burridge, Florida

January 14 at 11:23 AM

FL

**Fran Lewis And Paul Laisure** posted:

A GRACIOUS LADY WHO WILL BE SORELY MISSEDu

January 14 at 10:54 AM



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MW

**Mark & Barbara Weber** posted:

Mary Lou was a very special lady. She always made people feel they were the center of attention when they were with her. That is a gift. God grant her peace.

January 14 at 4:52 AM

EF

**Eric Fernandez** posted:

Dear Mary Lou, Sorry I never met you on this earth but I look forward to meeting you in heaven. You and your Husband created one of the finest men I have ever met! I know you look down upon them with love. God's Speed, Eric

January 13 at 9:30 PM

JS

**John Seeley** posted:

Dick, My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family on your recent loss. Knowing what a wonderful woman that Mary Lou was throughout her life will give you many happy memories.

January 13 at 8:43 PM

RK

**Rich & Cynthia Krytus** posted:

You will be missed. Sorry from our whole family.

January 13 at 4:14 PM

ST

**Shirley Torch** posted:

Dear Dick, My heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to you & your family. What a lovely tribute you wrote for Mary Lou. I can imagine she is already teaching Heaven's Angels how to dance. With loving thoughts and prayers Shirley Torch

January 13 at 2:22 PM

RD

**Russ Davis** posted:

Mom, we miss you so much, but we're so thankful for your long, wonderful life. I am so thankful to have been your son. I will love you forever.....

January 13 at 9:30 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mary Lou by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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