



Mary Ellen Dirieux

October 22, 1941 - March 21, 2025

Mary Ellen Dirieux, loving mother and grandmother, passed away on March 21, 2025, following a brief period of illness due to multiple factors of heart, lung and kidney disease.

Born in the small town of Double Springs, TN on October 22, 1941, Mary Ellen grew up under the care of her parents, Estelle and Roy Cantrell, ending up going to school and living in Detroit, Michigan.

She graduated Commerce High School in Detroit and went on to have careers as a bank teller at Mt. Clemens Bank, and as an office worker at TACOM on the Selfridge Air National Guard base.

Mary Ellen was filled with love, light and laughter, and never hesitated to share her spirit with anyone she met. She loved mystery shows, learning new things, and playing the slots. With her nickname Cherry Mary, she was ever ready to try her luck!

Mary Ellen was predeceased by her parents, Roy and Estelle, husband, Joseph Dirieux Sr., her first husband, Barry Gentry, and her eldest son, Randy Gentry. She is survived by her son Joseph James Dirieux, Jr., daughter, Lynda Navarre, son-in-law Robert Navarre, and her pride and joy, grandson James Navarre. She will be missed by all her extended family and friends, with whom

she gave and received love, compassion and care. Too many to list, she would want everyone to know how much they meant to her, with every call, card or visit.

She didn't want a traditional funeral ceremony; Mary Ellen instead hoped that people would choose to remember her with random acts of kindness to those who may be in need of a comforting smile, a little bit of help over a bump in the road, or a simple reminder that love wins all.

Organizations she approved of include the COPD Foundation and American Heart Association.

Mary Ellen was one of a kind, and we know she will be watching over us all, hoping we will remember to find opportunities to share love and laughter with those around us. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Spent time with this beautiful, kind, loving and hilariously funny lady. The experiences often shared were so much fun. I will miss you Cherry Mary. RIP

Charlotte Masen - March 26, 2025 at 11:00 AM

MS

Mary truly was a beautiful lady with the kindest heart and my fondest memories were spent with Mary in Vegas. I don't think I ever laughed so much in my life and never will again! Rest in peace Mary!! ❤️

Marie Schneider - March 26, 2025 at 08:58 PM