



Bess Wehrlen

September 1, 1919 - July 27, 2017

Bess Kamont Wehrlen, 97, widow of Harry J. Wehrlen left this life on Thurs., July 27, with her family by her side. Bess was the only surviving child of Victor and Aniela Kamont of Holyoke, MA. Bess was born in Holyoke on Sept. 1, 1919 and graduated from Holyoke High School.

Bess and Harry were married in Feb., 1946 after a long wartime correspondence. When Harry was transferred by GE for a new job, they moved to New Hartford, NY. They retired south to Asheville in 1981 to be nearer their children and grandchildren and also to get away from the snow.

Bess is survived by her three children; her devoted caregiver, Kathryn W. Graeter and husband John of Hot Springs, NC; Susan W. Wood and husband William of Whiteville, NC and David J. Wehrlen and wife Christine of Evergreen, CO; grandchildren, Gabrielle Graeter and husband Eric Usher of Asheville, Jesse Graeter and wife Ellie Weyer of Boulder, CO, Amanda Miles-Graeter of Asheville, Sarah W. Bronski and husband Mark Bronski of Avon, CT, William M. Wood of Willimantic, CT., Ella and Mia Wehrlen of Evergreen, Co; and one great grandchild, Aniela Graeter-Usher of Asheville.

In her youth, Bess was an avid skier, hitting the slopes throughout New England, back when skiing was indeed an adventure. She played tennis much of her life and was also a knitter and seamstress extraordinaire. After raising

her children, she worked in the Utica, NY office of the American Heart Association. Bess and her husband, Harry, were both long-time active members of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville.

Bess's family wishes to express special thanks to the caring staff of Mars Hill Retirement Center, Hospice of Madison and CarePartners Solace. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Charities, 50 Orange St., Asheville, NC 28801. Please write "Asheville Office" on the check's memo line. Or make a donation online at www.ccdac.org.

A memorial service will be celebrated at 10:00AM on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 72 Culvern St, Asheville. Inurnment will be next to her husband Harry in the church columbarium.

Cemetery Details

St. Eugene's Catholic Church Columbarium

72 Culvern Street
Asheville, NC 28804

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Eugene Catholic Church
72 Culvern Street
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.steugene.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bess Wehrlen*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *To Bess and Harry's children, We were good friends at St. Eugene and Bess and I shared a birthday. Through the years we have sent the same card to each other numerous times and had many laughs at our frugality. At one point Bess and I and another parishioner who also had a 9/1 birthday would sit together on the Sunday when it would be time for us to raise our hands to be recognized for our upcoming b'day then we would take turns standing to receive the applause accompanying the announcement. We had such enjoyment at this trivial event. Of course Harry and Bess were constantly teased about their connection to the Trumans. Peg and I have missed them both since leaving. Lots of love to you.*

Bob Adams - August 21, 2017 at 03:46 PM



“ *Bess was basically an addition to our family. I grew up on the same street as her, and she baked birthday cakes for me and my brothers and sister every birthday. I also liked going to her house to play ping pong, crush cans, watch tennis, and chat with Bess and Harry.*

Joe Peck - August 14, 2017 at 01:42 PM

MA

“ Bess helped me to cook potato latkes for a school project, which were delish, and always let us play ping pong in the basement and even have sodas! Her and Harry were so good to us, and parts of so many of our favorite childhood memories. Thank you Bess, and I'll try to pass on your good will and good deeds.

Max - August 04, 2017 at 05:46 PM

PD

“ How lucky for me and my family to have Bess, and Harry, for neighbors, for many years!
Somehow, though she never interfered, Bess managed to help us keep an eye on our 4 kids; she baked all our birthday cakes for a decade; occasionally, she'd give me a brown-bag lunch to take with me to work: a lovely treat. Until near the end, Bess was always sharp, perceptive, and, maybe above all, good-humored: she rode life's waves with honesty and goodwill. We miss her. I miss her!
Peg Downes and the Pecks

Peg Downes - August 04, 2017 at 07:34 AM