

## **Rysberg, Wanda L.**

Wanda Louise (Wessels) Rysberg, 69, of Crystal Falls passed away on Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 at Iron County Medical Facility after a long confinement due to progression of Alzheimer's. Her life was defined by her cheerfulness, hard work and high standards in every endeavor she undertook.

Wanda was born in Bad Axe on Nov. 26, 1939 to George and Otellia Wessels.

She was brought up on a farm and graduated from Bad Axe High School in 1957. Wanda continued her education in a three year nursing program at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and graduated in 1960. She began employment at Wayne County General Hospital in Eloise as an R.N.

In 1960 Wanda married Warren Rysberg and together they built a house on five acres in Plymouth.

In the early 1960s, Wanda accepted a new position as an operating room nurse at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She was promoted to assistant director of the operating room, which involved the daily scheduling and monitoring of 17 operating rooms. Wanda stopped working in 1987, after a long and satisfying career in nursing.

With this new gift of time, Wanda was able to expand her many hobbies and interests. Her many friends and family members delighted in her gifts of homemade quilts, needlepoint, craft projects, and her specialty cakes with unusual designs.

Wanda discovered a love for photography while she enjoyed her love of the out-of-doors, nature study and bird watching. Wanda liked tent camping and each year greatly anticipated the first day of deer season. She also enjoyed fishing and gardening. Her homegrown produce was used for canning and for many new recipes she prepared as meals for her husband and friends. Wanda was a sports enthusiast and always attended opening day for the Detroit Tigers. She also watched football games and participated in softball and bowling leagues.

Wanda and Warren enjoyed traveling. They also took in plays at theaters. Wanda loved her pets and always had a dog she spoiled. She originated the Dog Walkathon for Huron Valley Humane Society in Ann Arbor. This initiative grew over the years and annually resulted in thousands of dollars for the care of homeless pets.

On May 10, 1986, Wanda was honored by the Humane Society with an engraved plaque, "Thank you, Wanda and Pug. Your efforts on behalf of animals in need will always be remembered."

When Warren retired in 1989, they moved to the Upper Peninsula and designed and constructed their home on Buck Lake. Wanda and Warren enjoyed the outdoor activities in Iron County as well as the wonderful people they became acquainted with in the U.P. Wanda lived her life with integrity, honesty and an incredible work ethic. She was a cheerful, positive person who enjoyed life. She left her mark on everyone she met. Wanda's memory will be cherished, and she will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

She was a loving sister to Erich and Donna Wessels of Bad Axe, Sharon Elliott of Warren, Jean Schember of Sandusky; and sister-in-law, Carol Wessels of Harbor Beach. Wanda was a loving sister-in-law to Warren's brother, Brian and Linda Rysberg of Traverse City; and sister, Coralie Rysberg-Calle of San Anselmo, Calif. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Wanda was a loving and devoted wife to Warren Rysberg who predeceased her in 2006.

Preceding Wanda in death were her parents, George and Otellia Wessels and her siblings, Patricia Miller, Kathryn Brinker and George Wessels.

A celebration of Wanda's life will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, 2009 at First Baptist Church in Bad Axe.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Michigan or the Huron Valley Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 or charities of one's choice.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, at Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe.