



Mary Lou Cousley

July 11, 1940 - February 24, 2017

Mary Lou Cousley, 76, of Alton, IL died on Friday, February 24, 2017 at Bethesda Heart Hospital in Boynton Beach, FL. She was a winter resident of Ocean Ridge, FL.

Mary Lou was born July 11, 1940 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She was the daughter of the late James and Jean (Handley) Williamson. She grew up in East St. Louis and moved to Alton when she married Stephen A. Cousley on June 8, 1963. She and Steve met at SIU- Carbondale, where she graduated.

Mary Lou taught second grade at Central School in Roxana. She later coached the women's tennis team at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey for nine years. She and Steve also owned and managed Dormann's Gifts and Interiors in Alton for sixteen years before she retired. They were married for 54 years and enjoyed the community involvement connected with ownership of the local newspaper and their gift shop. Steve was editor and publisher of the Alton Telegraph.

Mary Lou was an avid tennis player and golfer. She was most recently a runner-up in the Boynton Beach Links Ladies Championship. Over the span of her golfing career, she had three hole-in-ones.

She loved her family and friends from every connection. Keeping active was a high priority, as many know. Her beautiful personality could fill a room with joy and love. She excelled as a chef, party planner, and entertainer. One of her “jobs” was DJ for the Social Committee at Colonial Ridge Club, where she spent her winters.

Mary Lou was active in the community, as a charter member of the Alton Marketplace, member of Junior League of Greater Alton, Community Service League, P.E.O. Chapter IL, Alton Children’s Theatre, Jennie D. Hayner Library Board, and a volunteer with many other agencies anytime they needed help. She loved helping beautify Riverview Park and the Sunken Garden, and also co-chairing the event known in short as the Duck Pluckers Ball, a fundraiser for Alton Memorial Hospital Foundation to purchase new ambulances. She was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, where she served as a deacon.

Mary Lou is survived by her husband Steve Cousley; daughter Jean Cousley of Alton; son and daughter-in law Mark & Mary Cousley of Godfrey; grandchildren Chrysa Cousley, Alex Cousley, and Katie Cousley; and many other in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Charles Williamson.

A visitation will be Thursday, March 2, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Alton. The memorial service will be Friday, March 3, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. also at the church.

Memorials in Mary Lou’s honor can be sent to First Presbyterian Church in Alton, or also to US Bank for the Riverview Park & Sunken Garden Preservation Committee.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4th & Alby Streets
Alton, IL 62002

Memorial Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4th & Alby Streets
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Lou Cousley*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Mary Lou Cousley*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *To Steve and the Cousley Family. My thoughts and prayers are with you in the passing of Mary Lou. Take comfort in the thought that she is with our Lord. I'll always remember the many victories we had playing doubles at Jamestown Racket Club. She was a true competitor!*

Marty Abilez

Marty Abilez - March 05, 2017 at 02:13 PM



“ *Susan Edsall lit a candle in memory of Mary Lou Cousley*



Susan Edsall - March 04, 2017 at 12:01 PM

DM

“ *The deepest sympathy from the entire Don Miller family: Don, Claudine and Laurel.
Mary Lou was one of a kind. We will remember her in our prayers.
The Millers*

Don Miller - March 02, 2017 at 04:22 PM

LP

*She was such a part of our FI Family
She will be missed
Our prayers are with Steve & Family*

Laura & Norm Provost - March 02, 2017 at 07:12 PM

MD

“ *Steve, I'm thinking of you and the family as I receive this news. You two were an important part of my life in Alton. Always warm and welcoming with a happy smile.
My love,
Michal Dobson*

Michal Dobson - March 01, 2017 at 11:54 AM

DW

“ *Mary Lou was such a warm and welcoming person to know. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Steve and family. She will be truly missed.
Dora and Bill Whitehead*

Dora Whitehead - March 01, 2017 at 07:59 AM

RS

“ Steve,
It is shocking to read of the sudden and unexpected loss of Mary Lou. You, and your family, have our sincere condolences. May Mary Lou R.I.P.
Rick and Dianne Simpson

Rick and Dianne Simpson - March 01, 2017 at 06:24 AM

GD

“ *the memories of Mary Lou loom large in my heart as I remember her smile, laugh and happy soul! She will b missed but never forgotten by those that had the privilege of knowing and loving her! Another angel that is home too soon! Til we meet again Mary Lou!!! Prayers! Ginger Donham*

Ginger Donham - February 28, 2017 at 02:06 PM

MO

Love you, Jeanie, and always with you and the family!! Mrs. Overath-Durham 🥰🥺🥹

Maureen Overath-durham - March 02, 2017 at 08:42 AM

KB

Steve, you entire family is in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Lou was such a wonderful person. She was always so good to the girls. Dave, Kim, Erin and Mary Kate Banks

Kim Banks - March 02, 2017 at 10:24 AM