



Elizabeth D. Donnelly

December 2, 2004

Donnelly, Elizabeth D. age 93 of Plymouth, December 2, 2004. Visitation Monday 2-5 and 6-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth (between Sheldon and Beck Roads.) In state Tuesday 10 AM until funeral mass 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial, Plymouth (at Beck Road.) Interment at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens in Okemos. She was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Mac John Donnelly, Sr. Dear mother of Thomas of Canton; Brian (Ruthann) of Williamsburg; Gail Drouillard of Williamston; Kathleen Martin of Troy; Mary (Hal) Smith of Overland Park, KS; Elizabeth D.(Richard) Barker of Plymouth; and the late Mac Jr. (Marjorie Thornton.) Dear sister of Mrs. Owen J. Cleary-Mangas; and the late Catherine and Alfred. She also is survived by 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Elizabeth was born in Bay City, Michigan the second child of Catherine and Alfred DeWaele. She grew up there with her sisters Marie and Katie, and her brother Alfred. Together they attended St. James School through the 12th grade. WWI started when she was three years old. She remembered the sailor dress she loved and the soldiers coming home from the war. She enjoyed a wonderful childhood surrounded by cousins and friends. After visiting her grandmother, she often brought home chickens, ducks and even a lamb on the trolley. In high school she performed in plays, played the piano and tennis, rode horseback and ice skated. She swam in Saginaw Bay while working at her Aunt's tea room in the summer. She witnessed the first plane to land in Bay City. The whole town

went outside of town to an open field where a mail plane came in for a landing. When her father taught her to drive, he stayed on the sidewalk and shouted directions to her as she haltingly drove down Van Buren Street. After two years at Bay City Community College, she attended Michigan State Normal College (later renamed Eastern Michigan University) where she earned her teaching degree. She taught school in Plymouth and Trenton. She traveled in the summers to Mexico, England, Ireland and Continental Europe. After a "whirlwind courtship of nine years," her husband used to say, he finally asked her to marry him. On December 26, 1940 Mac John Donnelly and Elizabeth Ann DeWaele were married. She changed from classroom teacher to loving mother. Over the next eleven years, 7 active children were born; Mac Jr, Gail, Kathleen, Mary, Thomas, Brian and Elizabeth. Then Elizabeth returned to teaching. Over her thirty year career she taught most of the elementary grades, Spanish and creative writing at a women's prison. She was active in education, becoming the chairman of the Department of Classroom Teachers for the State of Michigan. She was a charter member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teacher's sorority, and an active member of Plymouth's Business and Professional Women's Club. She somehow found time to write to her grown children once a week after they left home. On June 16, 1977, Mac and Elizabeth lost their oldest son, Police Officer Mac J. Donnelly, Jr. He was shot and killed in a bank hold-up in Lansing. This, and the loss of her husband Mac Sr in 1980 were her two biggest challenges. She taught her family by example about courage, and the need to go on when life takes away the ones you love. The young woman from Bay City who saw the first plane land there, later witnessed the space flights to the moon and beyond. She had a love of science, weather, geology, foreign languages and world geography. She grew up through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the advent of the automobile, gas and then electric lights, air and space travel. In addition to being proud of her 7 children, 19 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren, Elizabeth was most proud of piloting a plane for the first time at 79 years old. We love you, Mom, Grandma and Great-

grandma. God speed.

Memorial contributions may be made to MiCops, P.O. Box 928, Suttons Bay, MI 49682; or to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48103-8944. To leave an online message of condolence for the family, click on the Online Condolences link on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Elizabeth D. Donnelly*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I was honored to be your neighbor. Every night I would pass by your blue light in the window and it would remind me to be careful. You're now with your husband and your son, who gave himself for all of us. You will be missed in the neighborhood.*

The Crowe's - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM



“ *Tom, I received your card yesterday. We kept in touch. I am very sorry about your Mom. She was always telling me what good kids you guys were and when she had more great-grand kids. She loved you all very much.*

Renee Feldkamp - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM



“ *Mrs. Donnelly was my 4th grade teacher in 1969 at Starkweather Elementary School and my sister's teacher in 1967. She was one of the few teachers who touched our lives forever with her compassionate ways. I was blessed to experience her ways for a year. How lucky you are, as a family, to experience her most of your life. May God bless and keep you during this time.*

Sandra (Amyx) Rogal - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

SM

“ Dear Tom and Family,
Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Your Mom was a special person and she will always be remembered. May you all find comfort in remembering how well you took care of her and may God continue to bless you with fond memories. Love always, Sandy Marchi

Sandy Marchi - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

TH

“ We're sorry we were unable to come to the funeral home last night.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Tom & Adrianna Hunt - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

TF

“ We are very sorry for your loss. We hope that you rejoice in the fact that she left behind so much family and so many loved ones and lived such a full life. May God Bless all of you. With Deepest Sympathy and Love,
John, Angela and Nicholas "Nickel Pickle Chip" Mamaligas

The Mamaligas Family - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

NH

“ Mary -
My thoughts and prayers are with you. I know your Mom suffered alot these past few months and that she is now at peace. I realize that I still have these times to live through as well with my parents and hope that I can have your peace of mind when the time comes.
Nadine

Nadine Criger Hershey - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

EB

“ Dear Gail,

May it bring peace to your mind and heart to know that your Mother is now with the Lord. May God grant you and your family strength and comfort now and in the days to come. Your Mom was a beautiful person in every way.

Love, Elaine

Elaine (Calahan) Burgin - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JT

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy to the extended Donnelly family for the loss of your dear mother, Elizabeth. A donation to the Traverse City Munson Hospice is being made in her name. You remain in our fondest thoughts and prayers.

John and Sandy Thorne - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

LH

“ Dear Mary & Family.....

Well another of Plymouth great oldtimers has gone to meet the Lord....you were all so lucky to have had your mother for 93 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time of great loss.

You never realize how you feel when both of your parents are no longer with you here on earth, it is quite a void. Take care and best to all of you.

Larry & Josephine (Calleja) Hall - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

DB

“ *What a wonderfully long life and to have seen so many grand and great-grand children. Although the life of a loved one is never long enough, may all of you be consoled by the happy memories that will last forever.*

An old neighbor,

Diane (Hathaway) Barney

Diane (Hathaway) Barney - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

SL

“ *This is a wonderful way for a quick message. She's beautiful, Gail. What a nice family you have. Blessings on everyone. You will be remembered today at Mass. S. Lucienne.*

S. Lucienne - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JB

“ *We are sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She has been taken to the Church Triumphant where she waits for a reunion with all of us. God has richly blessed her with a wonderful family and a long life. May He comfort you.*

Judy and BobKugler - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

JD

“ *Our prayers are with you at this time of need. We ask God to give you strength and fond memories of Elizabeth and how she molded your family. If there is anything we can do for you don't hesitate to ask. Love, Joe & Sandy*

Joseph & Sandra DeWaele - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

AJ

“ I am so very sorry for your loss Gail ~ you and your family have my sincere sympathies and condolences. Your mother must have been very much loved, and I know she will be missed. But she will always be alive in your memories and in your hearts.

An RC friend from Minnesota, Jeanette - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM

K(

“ Tom, "Mr. Donnelly" I am sorry to hear about your loss. You, as well as your family, are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

*God Bless,
Karen Tackett (Dombrowski)*

Karen Tackett (Dombrowski) - December 12, 2014 at 10:35 AM