



Polly Katherine Wise

October 12, 1962 - March 7, 2023

Polly Katherine Wise, age 60, passed away on March 7th at home in Plymouth, Michigan. She was one of nine children and graduated from Petoskey High School in 1980. While at Petoskey High School, Polly was a member of color guard in the Midshipmen Jr. Drum and Bugle Corp, traveling all over Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio with her fellow Corp members. She attended North Central Michigan College, and earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Arizona State University.

Polly had unlimited time for children, the elderly, the disabled, and animals – especially dogs! It was common to find her in creative play with kids, or deep conversations with adults about health, nature, art, and music. An avid reader, she enjoyed sharing new information with those who she knew would be interested.

Polly and fun went together, and she would grab your hand to dance at the sound of any upbeat music – especially Motown, rock & roll, oldies, or swing. Her sparkling eyes and sweet smile filled a room! She was also the Best Caregiver: empathetic, patient, calm, and attentive to every detail. At L'Arche Cleveland, a home for adults with developmental disabilities, Polly was a House Manager for two L'Arche homes for several years. She had an extraordinary gift of working with the handicapped.

As one of nine children, Polly practiced selflessness, being a mediator, and always bringing out the best in everyone. She was full of joy, laughter, silliness and had a youthfulness about her. She attended sporting, theater events and art shows of all the family members, always offering support and encouragement.

Polly was service-oriented her whole life: serving at Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, and at Michigan's Pine Hills Girls Camp – willing to wash the dishes as well as performing hilarious stage skits. Her strong faith was the underlying support to everything she did in her life.

Polly is predeceased by her parents, Richard (Dick) and Betty Wise, nieces Hope Benedetto, Brooke Wise, and Faith Wise. She is survived by siblings John (Annie) Wise, Kevin (Carol) Wise, Chris (Lynn) Wise, Gayle (Bruce) Campbell, Ric (Beverly) Wise, Dana (Hank) Benedetto, Patrick (Margie Marks) Wise, and Tim (Trish) Wise, and 22 nieces and nephews, and 42 great-nieces and great-nephews.

There will be a Memorial Gathering on Monday, March 13th at 9:30 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 411 Florence Street, Ypsilanti, MI.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations made to L'Arche USA, 11811 Shaker Blvd., Suite 116, Cleveland, OH 44120.

AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) Attn: M. Swyer, 199 Water Street, 11th Floor; New York, NY 10038.

Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4507.

Arrangements entrusted to Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Plymouth. To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAR 13. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
411 Florence Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197-8108
info@ypsicatholic.org
<http://www.ypsilanticatholic.org/>

Funeral Mass

MAR 13. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
411 Florence Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197-8108
info@ypsicatholic.org
<http://www.ypsilanticatholic.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Polly Katherine Wise*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *38 years ago Polly was one of several young ladies who came to our house and helped take care of our new baby and 3 older children as I recovered from a c-section and cancer treatment. She was so helpful and fun and full of life. We were and always will be so thankful for her help and loving care. God bless Polly!*
Marcia Swiss

Marcia Swiss - March 19, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *Polly will be deeply missed!!! I had the pleasure of working with Polly my first two years of Larche as a live in assistant!! Polly was the other live in !! We remained good friends after she left larche in 2003 !! I always looked forward to her visits to the community and enjoyed my time with her!!! I know she's with Jesus now but she will be deeply missed.*

John Peter - March 16, 2023 at 08:14 PM



“ *Polly was a friend and confidante in the late 70s/80s. She was a source of joy and optimism even when we shared pain. I'm saddened to learn she has passed, too soon. Deepest condolences to her family and close friends. I'll never forget Polly.*

Helen Lounsbury - March 14, 2023 at 05:26 PM

YV

“ I liked Polly the first time I met her. We became good friends and shared many great conversations during the walks and lunches we enjoyed together. She was fun and we loved laughing together. She had a passion for the things of God and it was touching and inspiring to see her lifting her hands and face to God during times of worship at church. I know she's with Jesus and no longer in pain but I will forever miss my dear friend. ❤️ Yvonne

Yvonne - March 12, 2023 at 09:30 PM

BB

“ *Our Sweet Polly,*

When we were kids growing up and would get together, Polly always found adventures to ensure fun unforgettable days. She was always so energetic, brave, sociable, and of course always providing much laughter. After our visits were over, I couldn't wait for the next time.

To Know Polly Is To Love Polly!

She was so caring, always finding good in people and putting others first.

Her kindness and sincerity have touched so many, making their days brighter.

Polly was a true blessing to our family and everyone in her life!

Praying for your peace you so deserve! I'm sure you are now dancing and caring for all of our angels above.

Saint Polly!

We will Miss You Forever! Till we meet again...

Love you!

Cousin Beth

Beth Badarak - March 12, 2023 at 05:18 PM

JP

“ Dear Gayle & Wise Family, Thank you for keeping in touch. So very, very sorry to hear of Polly's passing. I remember her bright smile and welcoming way.

*Life is more beautiful for many people because Polly was part of it. Praying for Polly and all of you. Please keep in touch.
Love & Prayers, Jackie Prevost*

Jackie Prevost - March 12, 2023 at 04:49 PM

CH

“ Polly,

*It was a blessing to have you in our Lives.
We will miss your beautiful smile, and your bubbly personality.
You lit up every room you were in. Keep resting with the angels.*

Cheryl & Roger Herbst

Cheryl Herbst - March 12, 2023 at 03:07 PM

SC

“ So, so sorry to hear of Polly's passing. Please count on my prayers for her and all of you.

Sr. Dorcee Clarey - March 11, 2023 at 08:55 AM

MH

“ Please accept sincerest condolences from all of us at L'Arche Cleveland and know our hearts are completely broken by the news of Polly's passing. We are so thankful that she was a part of our lives and shared her loving commitment to others with us. Polly blessed us with a multitude of memories and left us with hearts filled with gratitude.

May she rest peacefully in the gentle arms of our Lord.

Mary Hurley - March 10, 2023 at 11:13 PM

LJ

Polly was always a compassionate woman to all peoples and animals. May God Bless You Polly! I can visualize you in Heaven sharing your love and happiness with all!

Lynne M. Just - March 11, 2023 at 09:10 AM

VI

“ When I think of Polly I see her bright red hair and her forever bright smile that spanned across her small face, and pale beautiful skin. I had the pleasure of spending some time with her. She had a gift with the elderly and was so kind to my cousin in his 90’s. I know she loved dogs for sure! She was so interesting in so many ways, sensitive and kind hearted. I hope she is at peace. RIH sweet Polly. I will think of you when feeling sunshine and seeing sunflowers....and smile 🍷

Vicki - March 10, 2023 at 03:05 PM

DS

“ Polly was such a sweet caring person. She loved her little doggie Micky and she dog sat our dog, and our parakeet in our home several times. I met Polly and her sweet mother when we were working together making political changes in our township. Polly and her sweet smile and laughter will be missed. We are very sorry for your families loss. Paul and Doreen Sharpe

Doreen sharpe - March 10, 2023 at 09:16 AM

JJ

I was honored to have known her and saddened to have not had more time together to allow our friendship to deepen. We were doing a Bible study together. Her care and concern were obvious in one conversation with her. She was gifted in ease of approachment. With your first conversation with Polly, you knew you walked away a friend. Deepest sympathy to her family. She spoke so highly of them all. Will be praying for those that adjust to her loss.

Jeanelle Jackson - March 10, 2023 at 02:11 PM

CR

With Deepest Sympathy to Polly's family! She was a delightful, kind, warm hearted person who loved her dog very much. I still remember the day Micky decided to run onto busy Ann Arbor Trail & ignored Polly's call to stop! My friend and I were able to catch & return him home to Polly. He meant so much to her. We also would see Polly at the Sharps home for different occasions they hosted. She was a lovely person who deeply cared about others and will be missed. May God see her to heaven on Angels wings. We are so very sorry for your loss.

*" Love lives on forever in each memory and thought, of the special ones who meant so much and the happiness they brought. Love lives on forever it will never fade away
For, in our hearts, our loved ones are with us every day."*

Chris and Larry Rheault

Chris Rheault - March 10, 2023 at 02:16 PM

MC

Polly was an absolute gem, so kind and had a ready smile. She cared so much for others. She related to others to bring them comfort. I was also in a Bible study with her and so appreciated her. I will miss her. Praying for all of you as you move through this time.

Michele Chalmers - March 10, 2023 at 02:23 PM

AS

Polly was a friend to all she met! Her smile, those sparkling eyes, her compassionate BIG loving heart and her LOVE for Jesus and her family were her precious traits. I have Blessed memories I cherish from each time we saw each other over the years. May she rest in the Arms of our Savior. We unite our prayers for her beloved family and friends.

Annette Collins and Stuart - March 10, 2023 at 08:53 PM

MB

My dearest cousin, my heart is heavy with the news of your passing. I know that you were struggling and in pain for so long, and it breaks my heart to think about what you must have been feeling. I wish we could have talked more before this happened; I hope that wherever you are now, peace has found its way into your life. You will always be remembered as a beloved member of our family who was brave enough to face her struggles head on even when things seemed too hard. May these words bring comfort: "Though life may be filled with sorrows today, tomorrow brings a new dawn - one filled with hope." Rest easy now knowing how much love surrounded you here on earth and still surrounds you now in spirit.

Michelle McKinney Barnett - March 11, 2023 at 01:26 PM

DM

Dearest Patrick and all the Wise family members, I am so sorry about the loss of Polly. I only met her a handful of times but, she was always such a delight . May she rest in peace. Dayna Mattis

dayna mattis - March 12, 2023 at 08:20 PM

RM

With deepest sympathy to the entire Wise family. We only met Polly a few times, but we instantly felt a connection. Her personality was warm, caring, and contagious. May her memories and beautiful warm smile bring you comfort forever!

*Fondly,
Robbie Murphy, Meghan Murphy, and Arnie Spieker*

Robbie Murphy - March 13, 2023 at 10:53 AM

RH

I remember Polly from the 1980s. Such a kind, joyous, spirited woman. I'm sad to hear of her passing. Wishing peace to all who mourn her.

Rhonda - March 13, 2023 at 10:57 PM

GC

Thank you for all your kind words. You are all an important part of her life, and her life was happier with you in it💕. We will all miss her so much. Love, Polly's older sister Gayle

Gayle Campbell - March 23, 2023 at 12:57 AM