



## Mary J. Connors

June 11, 1942 - December 9, 2020

Mary J. Connors, age 78, of Black Earth, passed away Wednesday, December 09, 2020, at Pine Valley Community Village in Richland Center. Mary J. Connors was born June 11, 1942, to Phillip and Margaret (Flamme) Winslow, the fourth of five sisters who were raised on a farm in Twin Bluffs, WI. Through her father Phillip, Mary was a descendant of Edward Winslow, an original Plymouth Colony settler who served as a peacekeeper and diplomat. Mary inherited her love of baking from Margaret and her passion for literature was handed down from Phillip, who was not only a farmer, but also an English teacher. Mary attended Ithaca High School and dated Tom "Jim" Connors but they broke up and lost touch after graduating in 1959; but their story picks up again in 2007!

Mary attended the Methodist-Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, MN, and met Tom Jones. They were married in 1963 and moved to Europe for Tom's job with Control Data, where they enjoyed the food, skied the mountains, and lived in different countries. In 1972 they moved back to the states living first in Cazenovia, WI, Forest Lake, MN, and finally settling in Saratoga Springs, NY. Tom and Mary had two girls, René and Tanya.

Mary and the girls moved back to Wisconsin in 1985 when she and Tom divorced. Mary then renewed her nursing license and worked at Pine Valley Manor retirement home. Nursing the elderly brought her joy and she would be employed at Pine Valley until she retired as a floor supervisor in 1999. In 1989 she married Dave Freestone and became stepmom to Shawn and Jennifer Freestone, and eventually grand-mother to Sierra, Jennifer's daughter, and great grandmother to Carter, Sierra's son. In 2000 Dave passed away.

Mary reconnected with her high school sweetheart Jim Connors and they were married in 2007. They enjoyed exploring dusty back country roads together, trips in Jim's semi, and playing cards with family. Extended Winslow gatherings with her sisters' families at the annual Easter basket hunt were highlights she also enjoyed. She will be remembered for her nurturing nature, excellent Christmas cookie baking, singing loudly off-key, taking long bubble baths, and reading all kinds of books, but especially mysteries.

Survivors include her husband Thomas "Jim" Connors of Black Earth, WI; 2 daughters, René (Michael) Halasy and Tanya (Phil) Plonka both of Rochester, MN; 2 grandsons,

Ethan and Anton Plonka; 6 step children, Jennifer (Mike) Strom, Shawn Freestone, Karlyn (Bill) Guy, Nancy (Doug) Moul, Thomas (DeAnna) Connors, Michelle (Chris) Music; 9 step grandchildren including Sierra Tourdot and Kendyl Halasy; 1 step great grandchild, Carter; 2 sisters, Alice Richards, Ruth (Neal) Anderson both of Ithaca, WI; and a large extended family of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Carol Amelong and Charlotte Williams, and past husbands Tom Jones and Dave Freestone.

A private family funeral will be held at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. A celebration of Mary's life will be held summer 2021.

Given Mary's lifelong dedication to the nursing profession, in lieu of flowers the family is requesting memorials be made in her name to Project Legacy. Funds raised will support a designated student currently starting in the RCTC nursing program. <https://projectlegacymn.org/donate>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsOK9KMZmhl&feature=youtu.be>

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy to your family Jim. May God bless all of you at this time and keep you healthy. Dan & Pam Jones*

Pam Jones - December 18, 2020 at 08:29 AM



“ *133 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - December 14, 2020 at 11:09 AM

Fran Denner

“ *My sympathy, Jim and family, my thoughts and prayers for you. Take care. Fran Denner.*

Fran Denner - December 12, 2020 at 07:30 AM

LK

“ *So sorry for your loss I worked with Mary at pine valley she was an awesome nurse*

laura krueger - December 12, 2020 at 02:44 AM

GR

“ *Gracee and Mike Rudkin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary J. Connors.*



Gracee and Mike Rudkin - December 12, 2020 at 01:51 AM

SA

“ Winslow Girl's were 5 together. We lost oldest Char several years ago, youngest Carol in Feb.2020, now Mary next youngest. Sister Alice and I, Ruth are left to keep the memories building. Sympathy to husband Jim, daughters Rene' and Tonya and all other relatives and friends, Love, Ruth and Neal

Sister Ruth L. Anderson - December 11, 2020 at 04:28 PM

 Fran Denner

Ruth and Alice, My sympathy for your loss of Carol and Mary. I remember some of our trips to Twin Bluffs with my Grandma (Clara) to visit, Eliza, & your parents. Fond memories of your mothers cooking! I may have been 4 or 5, I think. Take care. Love, Fran Denner

Fran Denner - December 12, 2020 at 07:26 AM

DD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God wrap his loving arms around you and give you peace.

Donna McAllister Deisher - December 11, 2020 at 04:26 PM

SS

“ We will not be able to make the services but I fondly remember Tom and Mary taking us water skiing at Lake Redstone when we were growing up and all the fun picnics together.  
Mary was always smiling and very caring.

I am glad you are able to gather and share your memories and celebrate her life.  
With deepest sympathy,  
Susan and Jay Scheuer Family

Susan Marie Scheuer - December 11, 2020 at 03:21 PM

MF

“ Much love from Ruth and Neal Anderson Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary J. Connors.



Much love from Ruth and Neal Anderson Family - December 11, 2020 at 03:09 PM

GH

“ *My sympathy to all connected to Mary. We grew up together and our families intertwined through church, 4-H, school, and community activities. She was always a very caring person.*  
*Glo Harper*

---

**Gloria Harper** - December 11, 2020 at 12:48 PM

CD

“ *Our condolences go out to the family of Mary. I knew the Winslow family of Twin Bluffs and I went to Ithaca High (class of 1961).*

*Chuck & Carol Dieter*

---

**CHARLES DIETER** - December 11, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DH

*My condolence to this huge Winslow clan!! Alice Richards my special thoughts to you now. I am a friend of Annette Louis and knew both Mr and Mrs Winslow.*

---

**Deb Hoadley** - December 11, 2020 at 10:56 AM

IH

“ *I worked with Mary at Pine Valley. She was a wonderful, caring nurse. My deepest sympathy. ... Ila Hagenston*

---

**Ila Hagenston** - December 10, 2020 at 11:18 PM