



Mary L. Wagner

January 1, 1947 - February 22, 2016

Mary L. Wagner, age 69, of Kankakee, died Monday, February 22, 2016 at Riverside Medical Center.

She was born January 1, 1947 in Rock Island, the daughter of Cedric & Esther Stewart Powell.

Mary married Stewart A. "Stew" Wagner February 14, 1970 at Asbury United Methodist Church. He preceded her in death August 30, 2014.

Mary was active with her husband in the United Commercial Travelers. She enjoyed being a member of UCT and did some extensive traveling with her husband when he was elected Supreme Sentinel of the UCT.

She attended Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Mary is survived by two brothers and three sisters-in-law, Milton & Sue Powell of East Lansing, William & Sue Powell of Crossville, TN, and Barbara Powell of Channahon; and ten nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; and one brother, Tom Powell.

Cremation Rites will be accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m until the 12:00 Noon memorial service on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Chaplain Carol DiZeo will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to the order of the United Commercial Travelers Charities Fund (www.uct.org).

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

“*Mary Lou entered our lives when the family was living in a small town north of the Quad Cities where my father was minister of a Methodist church. I was the oldest of three boys, twelve years older than my new sister. We enjoyed this lovely, lively, young girl as she became part of our family and our church-centered routines.*

Methodist ministers move from one assignment to another every four years or so and in 1949 we moved to Piper City, coming to Kankakee often during those year for shopping, movies and MYF events at Asbury UMC. Mary was five years old when I graduated from High School. Every time I returned home from college or the army I noted how quickly she was becoming a young woman with her own friends, her growth in knowledge, talents, comprehension – and in stature. She was always kind enough to refer to me as her big brother

Mary lived in several more towns as she grew up – Quincy, Roseville, Chillicothe, and Kankakee, where our father, Cedric Powell was for several years Associate Minister at Asbury. This was happy move, for here she met the love of her life, Stewart Wagner. Sue and I have fond memories of their marriage in 1970 and of the many times we shared with them through the years, sometimes at our Michigan cabin watching grandkids play in the water. One of our daughters remembers sitting beneath the piano while Mary Lou played. Another daughter has sent this vivid memory of an outdoor party after a cousin’s wedding:

“ I’ll never forget how warm and inviting Mary Lou was every time I saw her. I was the puniest little Powell, but she always gave me a big hug and told me it was good to see me. I remember the softball game in Barb and Tom’s backyard. It was a warm sunny day and everywhere I looked I saw one of my relatives. I remember lots of yummy food that I bet Barb and Cindy and Marsha prepared. I remember Mary Lou and Stewart both seemed to be having a great time playing softball and hanging out with everyone. Their smiles and laughter from that day are how I still remember them both to

this day.”

At some point after their marriage we began hearing about the United Commercial Travellers and wondered briefly if Stew and Mary had joined a group of door-to-door salespersons. But we soon learned what the organization did and how much it had become the focus of their lives and the center of their circle of friends. Bill and I and our wives were honored to be Mary and Stewart’s guests in Indianapolis when Stewart was inaugurated as UCT’s highest officer. They spent the following year visiting UCT groups throughout the US and Canada. It was surely one of the happiest times of their lives.

We will miss Mary’s warmth and good nature which quickly new friendships wherever she went, her fondness for dogs and angels -- and the courage with which she bore herself through grief and poor health in her last few years. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary support given to her by her dear friends David and Mary Kraemer during those difficult years of her life. And, finally, we share Mary and Stewart’s hope that they will be united in a life after this one.

*Milton and Sue Powell
East Lansing, Michigan*

Milton Powell - February 26, 2016 at 03:54 PM

RF

“*Roseanna Grace & Marjorie Flint lit a candle
in memory of Mary L. Wagner*



Roseanna Grace & Marjorie Flint - February 26, 2016 at 11:22 AM

GD

“ We will miss you, a good friend to everyone and U.C.T. Gary and Linda Deihs



Gary and Linda Deihs - February 26, 2016 at 09:52 AM

PR

“ We will miss you Mary here at Grumish Chiropractic. Loved that Boots'n'Motion could dance for you and your friends at Butterfield 2yrs ago.



Patti Roach

Patti Roach - February 26, 2016 at 08:47 AM

KA

“ Will miss you friend 💕💕💕

Kathleen Alcorn - February 26, 2016 at 07:05 AM

KA

“ Kathleen Alcorn lit a candle in memory of Mary L. Wagner



Kathleen Alcorn - February 26, 2016 at 07:04 AM

AM

“ We will miss you Mary. We had many long chats mostly via the telephone over the years.

Ann Marshall - February 25, 2016 at 10:56 AM

JG

“ I had many visits with Mary over the past year and was sorry to learn this news. My prayers are sent to the family.

Respectfully Yours,

Joe Giacchino

Riverside Healthcare Foundation

Joseph Giacchino - February 25, 2016 at 06:39 AM