



Mary Louise Melwid

December 13, 1933 - January 8, 2025

Mary Louise Melwid was born on December 13, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois to Kenneth Reinard and Geraldine Vera Briegel. She entered Heaven peacefully on January 8, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She met and married her husband, Cy Melwid on December 1, 1951 at St. Bernadine's Catholic Church in Forest Park, Illinois. She graduated in 1951 from Trinity Catholic High School, in River Forest, Illinois, where young women are challenged to seek faith, knowledge and truth. She made many life-long friends there. Mary Lou and Cy went on to create a wonderfully large, loving, close-knit, faith-filled family, raising six children. They were "Grandma Lou" and "Papa Cy" to 24 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild. They will forever be remembered for the legacy they left – instilling in the entire family the importance of faith and family.

In 1961, Mary Lou moved to the then, small town of Bloomington, Indiana, so Cy could open the first McDonald's Drive In, in the university town. It was a big adjustment for the "Chicago girl" but she managed to thrive joining several philanthropic groups and focusing on raising their 6 children. She made many good friends in Bloomington. Saturday was always a big day in the Melwid home, getting ready for football games. Mary Lou was a wonderful cook, and a great hostess, entertaining family, friends, priests and IU basketball players. Mary Lou was very stylish and elegant, and always dressed well, a picture of style and grace. She had a real sense for fashion and once her children were in school, she began working in women's boutique dress shops in

Bloomington. After moving back to Naperville, Illinois, in 1979, Mary Lou worked as a manager for Marshall Fields & Co., Stratford Square Mall in Bloomingdale, Illinois, and later at a small boutique children's clothing store, Children's Corner, in Naperville, Illinois before retiring. She also spent many years actively involved in and leading her condo association.

Mary Lou enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and traveled with them on many family vacations. She was adored and admired by her grandchildren, serving as the matriarch for the Melwid family. She spent many years lovingly caring for her mother and then her husband, as well as her beloved pets. She had a strong faith and was a parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Naperville. She will be remembered by her family as a woman of great character, conviction, wisdom, and strength.

We know Mary Lou was joyfully welcomed into heaven by her parents, her husband, Cy Melwid, brother, Kenneth Craig Briegel, daughter, Karen Hey, son-in-law, Thomas Mikus, and grandson, Michael Melwid. Mary Lou is survived by her children, Debi (Mike) Ladyman, Lori (Gary) Matney, David (Helen) Melwid, Cyndi (Randy) Mikus-Rosset and Lisa (Tim) Warren, and by her sister, Linda Hayes, as well as her many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Thank you, Mary Lou, Mom, Aunt Lou, Grandma Lou for leaving your everlasting impact on all of us, especially your devotion to faith and family as well as your grace and strength. We pray that everyone gets to be loved in life like Mary Lou loved us.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the MJM Fund at the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. The MJM Fund is named for Michael J. Melwid and supports causes such as children, animals, and youth development. Donations can be made to the Community Foundation, designated for the MJM Fund, online at https://cfbmc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1957 or by sending a check to: Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County 100 S. College Avenue, Suite 240 Bloomington, IN 47404 For other types of gifts or ways to support this

fund, contact Meagan Niese, Development Director, at 812-333-9016. All gifts made to the Community Foundation are tax-deductible.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 11:00AM CST at Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 36 N Ellsworth St. Naperville, Illinois 60540. Burial will follow in the Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM EST at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37, Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
36 North Ellsworth Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Tribute Wall

KT

“ Karen T. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Louise Melwid.

Karen T. - January 17, 2025 at 05:59 PM

TF

“ The Licht Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Louise Melwid.

The Licht Family - January 17, 2025 at 11:08 AM

TF

“ The Licht Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Louise Melwid.



The Licht Family - January 17, 2025 at 11:08 AM

SH

“ I was fortunate to have grown up next door to the Melwids and have many happy memories of play activities indoors and out, meeting the grandparents, and learning about their faith. Sincere condolences on the loss of Mary Lou, the beautiful matriarch of this fine family.

Sandie Hoff - January 16, 2025 at 10:44 AM

PP

I will miss my dearest friend for life since we were 5 yrs old. I hope we will meet again very soon. Love & Blessingsp to her beloved family.

Priscilla Papievis - January 16, 2025 at 03:02 PM

MA

“ *Marc & Paula Anderson purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mary Louise Melwid.*



Marc & Paula Anderson - January 14, 2025 at 05:58 PM

DD

“ *Doug and Elisa Duncan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Louise Melwid.*

Doug and Elisa Duncan - January 14, 2025 at 08:42 AM

DD

“ *Doug and Elisa Duncan purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mary Louise Melwid.*



Doug and Elisa Duncan - January 14, 2025 at 08:42 AM

BO

“ *To the Melwid family;; you all have my sympathy. Bob Brown*

Bob - January 12, 2025 at 06:16 PM

CH

“ Am missing MaryLou, always so beautiful...inside and out. I always think of her entertaining us in her home with her famous lasagne on a lovely big table. You kids were all small and someone (probably Lisa?) a babe in arms. You were all dressed up. She and Cy made having six children look easy somehow. As always Lou was elegant and charming. Sending our love and sympathy.

Connie Hildebrand - January 12, 2025 at 05:41 PM

DM

“ Dean, Jeanette, Jason and Aimee Meridew purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mary Louise Melwid.



Dean, Jeanette, Jason and Aimee Meridew - January 10, 2025 at 11:50 AM

LH

“ We were saddened to hear about Mary Lou’s passing. She was such a lovely woman—graceful, kind, and always so welcoming when my girls and I moved in upstairs here in Naperville. We were truly honored to know her and will always cherish the warmth and kindness she showed us.
With heartfelt sympathy,
Liz, Olivia & Maddie Holtzinger

Liz Holtzinger - January 09, 2025 at 01:22 PM

DG

Just found out about Mary Lou's passing. We go back alot of years. 8 at. ST. Bernardines plus all the yrs we were able to keep in touch. Missed it the last couple of years. So thankful to you n Cy that Tom n I were able to take over your apt. at Cy's parents when you moved to Joliet. Miss you. God's Peace dear friend. Dolores Gallagher

Dolores M Gallagher - March 12, 2025 at 07:28 PM