



Martha Sturm

October 17, 2009

Martha "Marti" Sturm, 65, of Cape Girardeau passed away Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, at her home. Marti was born Jan. 5, 1944, in Cape Girardeau, to Ferdinand Nicholas and Ruth Estes Sturm. She attended elementary school and high school in Dexter, Mo., where she graduated in 1962, having not only earned her diploma, but she also created lifelong friendships. These friendships brought her great joy and comfort throughout her life and tremendous peace, love and laughter during her courageous battle with cancer. She attended Baptist Memorial School of Nursing in Memphis, Tenn., and graduated as an RN specializing in behavioral medicine in 1965. She spent the majority of her professional career working at Saint Francis Medical Center. During her 23 years there, she served as the director of the Mental Health Unit, opened and served as director of The Franciscan Program, an alcohol and drug treatment facility later renamed Saint Francis Center for Recovery. She served as the employee assistance coordinator, providing individual and group counseling services as well as conducting numerous workshops for employees ranging from team-building to assertiveness training. She loved people and loved being able to help them through difficult times in their lives, thinking nothing of being awakened in the middle of the night to go to the side of a friend, employee, patient or complete stranger to offer her support. She worked with the Missouri Physicians Health Program, serving as group and individual counselor to physicians recovering from addiction. She held numerous nursing, counseling and leadership

certifications and licenses. She was certified in psychiatric nursing and substance abuse counseling. She was also a member of several local and national organizations including Zonta Club International, the American Nurses Association and Safe Kids Organization, and was a mental health assistant for the police department. She was a member of Abbey Road Christian Church-Disciples of Christ, and served as chairman of the stewardship campaign, worship committee and revitalization committee. Survivors include her life companion, Shirleen Sexton; other family members, Carl and Rebecca Backfisch of Benton, Kevin and Shana Lacey of Scott City, Craig and Charlotte Murphy of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Greg and Jill Welter of Cape Girardeau, Albert and Connie Sturm of San Jose, Calif., Elnir Fulkerson of Rockford, Ill., Jeanette Estes of Cape Girardeau; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Michael Estes Sturm. Visitation will Tuesday , October 20, 2009 from 5 to 8 p.m. today at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Chapel. Memorial service will be Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Abbey Road Christian Church, with the Rev. Rodger Kiepe officiating. Entombment will follow in Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum. Memorials may be made to Abbey Road Christian Church, the Humane Society of Southeast Missouri, or a charity of the giver's choice.

Tribute Wall

TT

“ *Shirleen...your in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Marti was a very special person and will be missed.*

Terri Tomlin - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Shirleen We were sorry to not be able to participate in Marti's service. We have had you both in our thoughts and prayers in these last few days. Love BCB*

BC & LIZ BURNS - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *I knew Marti through Shirleen, and I considered her like family. She would always check up on me to see how I was doing in school and in life, she was a great friend. My sympathies to all those that Marti has left behind.*

Michael McBride - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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Michael McBride - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Shirleen, My thoughts are with you. I have so many wonderful thoughts of Marti, I could go on and on! She was a truly wonderful person! She will be welcomed with open arms by her family and friends.

Teri Collins - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I graduated with Marti in 1962 from Dexter High School. I last seen Marti at our 45th class reunion and had the opportunity to talk with her. She was a very caring person and I know you will miss her terribly. Remember God has taken all her pain and suffering away and given her a mansion on the hill with her family. What a reunion that must have been. May God Bless you Shirleen and remember he is always holding you in his hands....Ruth Ann (Jarrell) Ricketts

Ruth Ann Jarrell Ricketts - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ When I think of Marti, it takes me back to my early nursing days at St. Francis in the 1980's...I remember taking a training course she taught and how she kept emphasizing that you should always try to find something positive whenever it seems negative. She was such a unique, one-of-a-kind, classy lady...Shirleen--my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sally Porch - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Shirleen, my thoughts and prayers are with you! I really didn't know Marti that well but the few times that I was around her made me aware of what a special person she was. God Bless you and may you find comfort that she is suffering no more...

Pam Welter - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM