



Grace Annette Fitzpatrick

DEC 15, 1911 - NOV 3, 2011



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Grace Annette Fitzpatrick

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Grace Annette Fitzpatrick, age 99, of Spring Lake, passed away peacefully Thursday, November 3, 2011, at an assisted living home, after a long and fruitful life. She was born December 15, 1911, in Ewart, MI to Rev. Elbert O. and Mary (Wells) Mather.

Her father was called to different churches every 3 years due to a Methodist Church practice, so Grace lived in Buchanan, Sparta, Pentwater, Lyons, and finally Albion as a child. She attended Albion College for both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Chemistry. Her first teaching positions were in Johannesburg and LeRoy, MI. She was recruited from LeRoy to teach at the Spring Lake Schools by Superintendent Holmes in 1938. She taught Math and the Physical Sciences and tutored Math and Latin during the summers.

On June 19, 1942, while visiting her sister in Sault Saint Marie, she met John (Pat) Fitzpatrick, who was a soldier stationed at Ft. Brady. They were married six weeks later. After their children were school-age, she continued her career in Spring Lake at Holmes Elementary School teaching her dear 4th graders until her retirement in 1976. She enjoyed bowling, bridge, reading, and doing needlework. She volunteered at the Red Cross after retirement and was a member of Christ Community Church.

Grace is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Abigail Fitzpatrick of Spring Lake; and a son, John E. (Sharon) Fitzpatrick of West Olive; three granddaughters: Cassandra (Heath) Heyblom, Molly (Jim) Curtis, and Audra (Curt) Cook. She is also survived by 5 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Joyce Mather of Albion; and several cousins. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, "Pat" John J. Fitzpatrick in 1988, her mother in 1926, her father in 1933, her brothers Vernum and George, and her sister Mabel.

At Grace's request, no public service will be held. A private graveside service for Grace will be held at the Spring Lake Cemetery. Memorial contributions to Hospice of North Ottawa Community



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will be appreciated. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.vbkfuneralhome.com.




Events

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Service

 **Monday**, January 1, 1900

 12:30 AM ET

 **A Private Family Service will be held**
Grand Haven MI





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I finally felt I could look at the posted comments from friends about their thoughts of our dear Grace. I appreciate your memories and caring comments so much. There has been such an outpouring of love that Grace would have been overwhelmed by it. She was always so modest and would have not expected to be remembered so fondly and so well. Thank you, thank you. I will cherish your words. Abbey##imported-begin##Abbey Fitzpatrick##imported-end##

November 24 at 6:45 AM



Anonymous posted:

John, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family on the loss of your mom. Not only did we go to school together I think we all had her for a teacher. Sincerely, Vicki##imported-begin##Vicki (Wildey) Steiner##imported-end##

November 7 at 4:28 AM



Anonymous posted:

To my BESTEST and OLDEST Friend... Looks like I am not the only one left who still thinks of you as GAIL! Pretty long reach to read on this mortuary condolence page that Diane's little brother, who lived across the street from us in "the old neighborhood", posted a comment to "John and Gail". The memories of my years of living two doors down from you in SL will always be magical. We shared so many times, even after moving away – just BEFORE my fourth grade year when I was assigned to your mom's classroom. In my heart, your mom has been my second mom since losing my own mother in 1978. Grace was always there. Never an "in-your-face" type of person, she was there to support her family and ALL of her CHILDREN. Can it ever be said that she was "wise beyond her years"? Who can imagine living 100 years? What a journey. Especially during her last years, your mother was blessed to have had you as her daughter. And, I have been blessed as well for almost six decades. Mon dieu... In closing I will say, "Amazing Grace, how sweet she was. May there always be peace and GRACE unto your place..."As when we were kids, I will sign off with my usual, "All my love, Holly".##imported-begin##Holly HEFLIN Bundy##imported-end##

November 6 at 10:11 AM



Anonymous posted:

You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##mark and mary radel##imported-end##

November 6 at 7:03 AM



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Anonymous posted:

John and Abbey and extended family: We were very saddened to hear of your dear mother's passing. We extend our condolences and sympathy for you and your loved ones. All mothers are so special in each of our lives. May God protect you and give you healing.##imported-begin##Larry and Cathee Coats Lemke##imported-end##

November 6 at 3:09 AM



Anonymous posted:

To John and Gail,Jim and I want to express our sympathy with the loss of your mother. Jim talks often of the "old neighborhood" and all the fun times you had. Jim and Pat##imported-begin##Jim and Pat Best##imported-end##

November 5 at 2:20 PM



Anonymous posted:

John,You have my sympathy after the death of your Mom. What a special lady she was!##imported-begin##Ruth Welscott##imported-end##

November 5 at 1:47 PM



Anonymous posted:

We are saddened to hear of Graces's passing. She was a stalwart of SL elementary education for several years. Abby (then Gail) and John were among my first students in SL Jr. high.I remember Grace well from both school and Christ Community Church. We express our sincere sympathy to you and honor a long life, well lived!The Brysons##imported-begin##John G and Claire E. Bryson##imported-end##

November 5 at 11:56 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Abbey, my thoughts and my prayers are with you and your family as you experience your mother's transition. I did not meet your mother in person but felt I had because you often talked about the delightful and loving times you shared with her. What a Blessing to have those wonderful memories. You were a Great Daughter!Elaine##imported-begin##Elaine Demps##imported-end##

November 4 at 11:43 AM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear Abbey, You were very blessed with a mom like Grace and I'm sure it will be lonesome without her. But she has made such a peaceful transition to a new realm, that I have to be happy for her. I always liked your mom, whose good spirit and sweetness will shine through you always. I will be here or there (Spring Lake) for you as needed, so please feel free to call on me. I love you sweetie! Peace, Bean###imported-begin###Jeannine McCormick###imported-end###

November 4 at 8:53 AM



Anonymous posted:

Abbey, You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. You were wonderful to your Mom! We will see you soon.###imported-begin###Jayne Austin & Roger Krese###imported-end###

November 4 at 6:09 AM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Fitzpatrick Family, Grace was an amazing women. I have very fond memories of her both from school and Christ Community. You are all in my prayers.###imported-begin###Pam (Van Weelden) Meekhof###imported-end###

November 3 at 6:20 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Grace Annette by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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