



# Pennie Lynn Robertson

JUL 31, 1942 - NOV 2, 2025



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# **Pennie Lynn Robertson**

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**P**ennie Lynn Robertson, age 83, of Spring Lake, passed away at home on November 2, 2025.

Born on July 31, 1942, in Harbor Beach, Michigan, Pennie was the youngest of seven children born to Earl and Stella (MacKichan) English. She attended Grace Nursing School in Detroit, where she met the love of her life, Gary Robertson, while he was attending medical school at Wayne State University. Pennie was on the Queen's Court at the Grace Hospital Cotillion Ball and was introduced to Gary by her dear friend Penny Harvey. He became her date for the Ball, — and so began their lifelong love story.

Pennie and Gary were married for 62 years and shared an extraordinary life together. After being married in Harbor Beach, their journey took them to Royal Oak, where Gary completed his medical internship, to South Dakota during his service in the U.S. Air Force, and then to New Orleans while he completed his residency and specialty training at Tulane and Charity Hospital. In 1969, they settled in Grand Haven when Gary established his OB/GYN practice at North Ottawa Community Hospital and where they built an incredible life, raised their family, and became deeply rooted in the community.

Pennie was devoted to her family—a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She and Gary raised three children: Heather Robertson (Hendrik Basson), Holly Johnson (Erick), and Gray Robertson (Amy). She was also the proud grandmother of Annica Robertson (Michael), Kai Robertson, Amber Bray, Madelynn Johnson (Mike Szajnowski), Ian Johnson (Bethany Jewison), Kate Robertson, and McKeathan Robertson, and the adoring great-grandmother of Chase and Aspen Robertson. The Robertson family always had dogs – and Pennie especially loved their current pup, Molly.

Pennie was known for her warmth, grace, and wicked sense of humor. She was a gifted homemaker and an exceptional entertainer—renowned for her cooking, her beautiful table settings, and her legendary homemade bread and pecan rolls. An avid collector of English



## Obituary

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antiques, Pennie had a refined eye for beauty and created a home filled with love and charm. Her friendships were deep and spanned decades--she knew how to find special people and hold them close. Lynn, Penny and curiously, many of them were named Nancy!

She gave back to her community in countless ways as a volunteer, committee member, and cherished friend. The Tri-Cities Family YMCA held a special place in her heart—particularly its Early Childhood Center, which will be named in honor of the Robertson family.

Pennie and Gary shared a lifelong love of travel, exploring the world together and creating countless memories with family vacations along the way. As her backyard for years, the peace and solitude of Duncan Woods brought her comfort and joy.

Pennie is survived by her beloved husband, Gary; her children and grandchildren; her great-grandchildren; her sisters, Joann Hargraves, Judy Schlabach and special cousin, MaryJane Balcueva as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Marion Henderson, Norma Harris, Tillie Krause, and Alton English as well as her brother and sister-in-law, Chuck and Kay Robertson.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Erika for her loving care over the past year, as well as to the compassionate team of caregivers from Comfort Keepers and Harbor Hospice. Though Pennie valued her privacy, she deeply appreciated the kindness and dedication of those who cared for her.

A Celebration of Life will be held 4:00 PM Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the Spring Lake Country Club. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Y for All Capital Campaign at the Tri-Cities Family YMCA in Grand Haven](#) or to the [M. Gary MD and Pennie Robertson Endowed Scholarship at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit](#). Please sign the family's online guestbook at [Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services](#).

The family is being served by The Spring Lake Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services.




# Events


**Pennie Lynn Robertson**

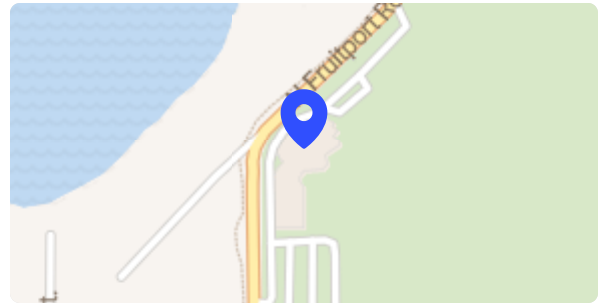
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## Celebration of Life

 **Thursday**, January 15, 2026

 4:00 PM ET

 **Spring Lake Country Club**  
17496 N Fruitport Rd, Spring Lake MI 49456





## Tribute Wall

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BM

**Barry Brown & Jolie Mosser** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Robertson family.



January 15 at 11:36 AM

BM

**Barry Brown & Jolie Mosser** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Pennie.



January 15 at 11:36 AM



**Lauri Erickson** posted:

I have very fond memories of going to the Robertson household back in Jr. High and High school. The warmth and beauty of the house on the hill was a reflection of Pennie's heart, a classy one of a kind. Pennie was always inquisitive and welcoming, and often had delicious fresh baked goods... and rules! I consider myself fortunate to have witnessed her rally a discussion or two around the infamous Robertson dinner table. I've always been delighted to see her through the years. I will think of her every summer when I use the antique tomato serving spoon she gave me as a gift many years ago. Condolences to her family. I know she'll be dearly missed.

January 15 at 11:10 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Robertson family.



January 13 at 2:50 PM

JH

**Joy H.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Pennie.



January 13 at 2:50 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Katy Dilanchian** posted:

My heart goes out to the family. I was lucky to spend time with Pennie during her visits to Australia, and she always brought such warmth and grace with her. It was clear how deeply she valued home and family, and how those qualities live on in her children. May her beautiful spirit remain close to you all, now and always ❤️

January 12 at 7:14 PM



**Stephanie Cole** posted:

Dear Robertson Family, On behalf of my family, please accept our condolences in the passing of your dear Pennie. She was an extraordinarily kind, generous, and fun person. We are so grateful for all the many happy memories she gave us. My mom treasured her friendship and loved staying in contact with Pennie and Gary over the many years. I wish you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Sincerely, Stephanie Cole Rabat, Morocco

November 10 at 4:09 PM



**Amber Bray** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I was lucky enough to be connected to Pennie and the Robertsons at the age of 7. Growing up, to me she was always the epitome of glamour. I was in awe of her easy grace, poise, and her effortless and timeless style. One of my favourite Christmas memories was our trip to the USA in 2000. As a little Aussie girl of 10 the Christmas pageantry and cheer was like nothing I had ever imagined! Pennie and Gary always made sure to make me feel at home. But it wasn't until I made the trip back for Christmas 2017 that I really understood the love and connection of that time. It was an opportunity for me to connect with Pennie and the Robertsons as adults, a time where I felt so welcomed, loved and thought of. I will always remember both of these very special holidays. The days after I heard of Pennie's passing I happened upon a forgotten penny, a British one, in my new home in England. It was a reminder of the connections of love and family that transcend geographical borders. Thank you for that sweet reminder Pennie, I will cherish it always. Valé ☐☐☐



November 7 at 11:24 AM



**Linda McGeorge** posted:

Penny, a woman of grace, beauty and laughter. Hugs to all of you!

November 4 at 11:29 AM



## Media

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**Amber Bray** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 7 at 11:24 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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