



Maryvonne Denner

May 7, 1925 - December 20, 2017

Maryvonne Denner, 92, passed away Wednesday, December 20, 2017 peacefully in her sleep at The Huntington in Nashua, NH. Maryvonne, the daughter of the late Jochain Mendes and Stanislaw Laskowska, was born May 7, 1925 in Provins, France. She was united in marriage to Raymond L. Denner on November 10, 1945 in Fontainebleau, France. Raymond was one of those brave soldiers who landed on D-Day in Normandy.

In Maryvonne's own words it was "love at first sight for the handsome American 1st Lieutenant and me, his bilingual secretary. After finishing my education, we married. I then left for the USA on a ship of anticipating "war brides" from Europe." They were married for 30 years until his death in 1984.

Maryvonne was a devoted wife and raised two children in Pittsburgh, PA. Her husband worked for Exxon in Pittsburgh after returning home from WWII. She called Pittsburgh home until she relocated to Nashua, NH in 1995 to be closer to her family. She found great joy in spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Maryvonne was an avid card player. She played with many groups in the Nashua area, including at the Nashua Senior Center and the Huntington. She always enjoyed a good game of bridge or hand and foot with her friends.

Maryvonne also enjoyed traveling. She made multiple trips back to France to visit her mother, including extended summer visits when her children were young. Other destinations in Europe included Portugal, Belgium and Greece. One of her fondest memories was traveling on a bridge cruise through the Panama Canal. She also made many trips to the west coast to visit her daughter.

Maryvonne will be deeply missed by her two children, Bruce R. Denner and his wife Linda of Nashua, NH, and Gail Pettit and her husband Stephen of San Carlos, CA; four grandchildren, Kristin Hort of Westford, MA, Laura Denner of Exeter, NH, Christopher Pettit and Ryan Pettit of San Carlos, CA; and 5 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her mother, Stanislawa Mendes in 2000.

Funeral services and Mass of Christian Burial for Maryvonne Denner will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 30, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church, 216 East Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH. All may meet at church. Burial will be private. The family will greet friends from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2017 at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes, 50 Ferry Street, Hudson, NH. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Maryvonne's memory may be made to The Corpus Christi Food Pantry of Nashua (http://corpuschristifoodpantry.org/?page_id=391) or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

VISITING HOURS

DEC **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home Hudson, NH
50 Ferry Street
Hudson, NH 03051
(603) 882-9431
info@dumontsullivan.com

MASS AT CHURCH

DEC **30**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Parish
216 East Dunstable Rd.
Nashua, NH 03062

Tribute Wall



“ *Maryvonne Denner*

October 06, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Maryvonne Denner*

September 27, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Maryvonne Denner*



Bruce Denner - January 04, 2018 at 02:33 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Mass Program*



Bruce Denner - January 02, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ 2 files added to the album *Maryvonne Denner*



Bruce Denner - December 31, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ 6 files added to the album *Maryvonne Denner*



Bruce Denner - December 30, 2017 at 09:43 PM



“ Maryvonne's Eulogy Part 1

Welcome to “church”. When I said that, an image probably came to your mind. To many, church is a building. To others, church is the gathering of the living faithful. But the universal church I’m speaking to today is that gathering of the living faithful and those who have gone before us and are in heaven today. I hope everybody is listening.

I’m sure that we have all been to political speeches or seen award shows on TV. In every case, the guest of honor is always welcomed. Today, it is my honor and privilege to welcome Maryvonne Denner, our guest of honor, as she becomes a member of the universal church in heaven.

Some of you know her as mother-in-law, grandmother, Grand Mere, or friend. Few of you know all of the details. Maryvonne was born into humble surroundings in 1925 near Provins, France. She was brought into this world by two immigrants, one from Poland, one from Portugal. At first they worked hard to make ends meet. Maryvonne’s mother worked as a maid in an estate, and Maryvonne’s father was a stone mason. Through frugal attention and dedication, her parents built a secure home for Maryvonne and invested in property of their own near Fontainebleau, France. Maryvonne learned the lessons of hard work and saving. The family was getting ahead and the future looked bright.

Then the world turned upside down. On May 10, 1940, 3 days after Maryvonne’s 15th birthday, the German army invaded France. In six short weeks, two thirds of France, including Maryvonne’s hometown, was under German control. She was soon to know real fear for the first time in her life. Despite these oppressive conditions, life went on. She went to school, shopped at the town market, and celebrated holidays as best she could. Maryvonne occasionally told stories about these difficult times to her family. Her parents hid a refugee Jewish family on their small farm. Maryvonne made weekly

trips on her bicycle to supply another Jewish family, hiding near Paris, with food. Yes, Maryvonne knew fear but she also learned the courage necessary to overcome it.

Just before Maryvonne's 20th birthday she met her knight in shining armor, my father, Ray. He had come ashore on D-Day. As a member of the US Army Corps of Engineers he had fought his way south toward Paris, driving the German army into retreat. Ray was eventually assigned to help rebuild the infrastructure around Fontainebleau that had been destroyed in the fighting. Maryvonne got a job as his secretary, and in her own words, "it was 'love at first sight' for the handsome American 1st Lieutenant and me...After finishing my education, we married and I left for the USA on a ship of anticipating 'war brides' from Europe." She wasn't the only one excited. In my dad's war diary he notes, on November 10, 1946 from Fontainebleau, "I just married the swellest gal ever"! Everybody was happy. In the years that followed, we know that Maryvonne experienced the joys of true romance.

From there she took on the challenges of leaving her homeland, building a home, and planning for the future. This was also the first time for the new bride to meet her new mother-in-law. This must have been frightening for the new bride, as her mother-in-law hadn't been able to attend the wedding because of the war. Remember the courage Maryvonne learned during the occupation? It came in handy here! Fortunately, Ray's mother was also an immigrant from Alsace Lorraine and understood firsthand the challenges of moving to a new country. With her help, Maryvonne built a home and family here in the USA. Maryvonne raised two children - Gail and me - in Pittsburgh, but always took the time to ensure our ties to our French family were strong. As children, we spent 5 summers in France. This was tough on my dad, but forever valuable to Gail and me. Maryvonne knew the importance of family.

Bruce Denner - December 30, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ Maryvonne's Eulogy Part 2

In 1984, two years after my dad's retirement from Exxon, he died tragically and suddenly. Maryvonne's dreams of traveling the world and rekindling family ties with those in the "old country" were dashed. Maryvonne had to fashion a new life as a widow. She traveled occasionally back to France, but her roots were now here in the USA. The draw of family being strong, she eventually decided to move to Nashua to be near my wife, Linda, and me. She traveled frequently to California to see Gail and her husband Steve. Maryvonne was a loving, vibrant and colorful part of all of our lives.

Maryvonne was a "Founding Resident" of the Huntington at Nashua and an active part of that community. She enjoyed the social environment there and made many friends. Maryvonne even helped out taking meals to residents who could not walk to the dining room. She also visited friends who had moved into nursing care. She surely demonstrated heartfelt charity in these good works.

Through the years, her health began to gradually decline and she too became a resident in nursing care earlier this month. In spite of skilled and loving nurses she succumbed to old age at the age of 92 and a half... the "half" was important to her.

Her lessons to her family are the qualities she practiced. She believed in gain through hard work, courage to overcome fear, true love, and kindness toward others. So to her grandchildren and great grandchildren... listen up! To the universal church, in heaven and on earth, please welcome the deserving soul of Maryvonne Denner. In heaven, may she be reunited with loving family, and enjoy the genuinely great French cooking that eluded her here in the USA.

Au Revoir, Mom.

JF

“ Bill and I enjoyed the too short visits with Maryvonne after we moved to the Huntington. Her hospitality and welcome to us as new residents drew us into friendship. I enjoyed particularly a spontaneous visit with her when she introduced me to her favorite orange drink while sharing some memories of her past. We had some thoughtful conversations which I'm glad to have in my memory. Joan Ford

Joan Ford - December 29, 2017 at 05:06 PM

RC

“ Rosa Chan purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Maryvonne Denner.



Rosa Chan - December 29, 2017 at 12:55 PM

MH

“ Maryvonne touched my heart for the short time I knew her. She was inspirational and had a heart of kindness for me. As Christmas came 2017 she was in my thoughts and prayers as an inspiration. I miss not knowing her more or hearing her inspirations. Marcella

marcella t hinkell - December 28, 2017 at 09:11 PM

HF

“ I've lost a good friend with the passing of Maryvonne. May her memory be a blessing for all she touched. My thoughts are with the entire family at this time of loss.

Henrietta Freedman

Henrietta Freedman - December 28, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maryvonne Denner.*



December 28, 2017 at 08:18 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Maryvonne Denner.*



December 28, 2017 at 08:15 AM