



Laura "Lou" Duplechain

October 7, 1931 - January 24, 2020

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 31, 2020 at St. Mary Mother of the Church for Laura Lou Duplechain, 88, who passed away on January 24, 2020.

Father Cedric Sonnier, Pastor of St. Mary Mother of the Church, will serve as celebrant.

Burial will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Lou, a resident of Lafayette, was the daughter of the late Alex Soileau and the former Amy Reed of Evangeline Parish.

She is survived by son, Michael T. Duplechain and wife Marcia of Hendersonville, NC; daughter, Virginia D. (Kelly) Riley and husband Carl of Lafayette, LA; daughter, Christine E. Kimmel and husband Gary of Spring, TX; daughter, Sandra D. West and husband Troy of Alexandria, LA; her elder brother, Huey P. Soileau of Angleton, TX; grandchildren, Tiffany Grace (Kelly) Chiarulli and husband Eugene, Amanda Kimmel Chance and husband Tyler, Marlin Kimmel and wife Sammy, Chris West and wife Kristy, Luke Kimmel and wife Catherine, Zachary West and wife Ashley, Spencer West and fiancée Midori, David West, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 expected.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Chris Duplechain; infant daughter, Marie Elaine Duplechain; parents, Alex and Amy Soileau; and her elder siblings, Hester Soileau Stagg, George Soileau, Cliff Soileau, Harry Soileau, and Carrie Soileau Singleton.

Lou, as she was commonly known by family and friends, was a beautiful woman inside and out, independent minded and strong until the end. She was born and raised in the Whiteville/Ville Platte area in the 1930's. At age 13, she began the journey of primary caregiver for her widowed mother who suffered from manic depression. She graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School, working to pay her own tuition. Following graduation,

she worked as a practical nurse, which she loved, but left it to join Chris Duplechain as secretary at KVPI and later married him. Later they relocated to Franklin, LA where they opened KFRA and raised their 4 children. Her main hobbies included sewing and flower arranging. She was a member of the Garden Club, and the Home Demonstration Club where she served as a 2-term president. She won numerous awards for her skills as a seamstress. She was also a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Catholic Daughters, Ladies Altar Society at St. Mary, the Little Lilies of the Eucharist, and several other prayer groups through the years.

In her early 50's, while still caring for her 90-year-old mother, her husband, Chris, became disabled. This forced her to find a way to become the primary bread-winner. The hardships faced when her father died uninsured, leaving their family without income, ended her dream to be an RN, but fueled her passion and drove her to succeed in her new career as a New York Life Insurance Agent. A rigorous training program required grueling trips to New Orleans weekly for several years. She overcame the challenges of the business and became one of the few females at that time to beat the odds of success in the insurance industry, qualifying for Million Dollar Round Table and achieving the New York Life Council annually. She also earned various certifications and awards. In 1988, the family relocated to Lafayette where she continued her career.

Lou was raised Catholic. As an adult, she made a Cursillo (retreat) and found a deep and true relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Later, she became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This encounter with the Holy Spirit was life changing. It opened the door to emotional healing and freedom in Christ. She was a living witness to the fullness, power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, which was evident in her countenance, words, and actions. She taught her family the power of praying in the name of Jesus, trusting God, and expecting miracles. For years her home was a gathering place for people from numerous denominations to connect, pray, and grow in their faith. Miracles happened and lives were transformed. She never tired of sharing her faith and offered to pray with anyone who was interested. Chris, her children, and many family members and friends came into a stronger faith as a result.

Near the end of Chris' life, she developed dementia and macular degeneration. Following his death, her loss of vision and memory made it increasingly challenging to live independently. Having been a caregiver since 13, it was very difficult for her to reverse roles and become the recipient of care. Family members rotated in and out of her home for 3 years to assist her. For the next 7 years, she moved around between assisted living communities and her daughter, Sandra's home in Alexandria, finally returning to her beloved home in Lafayette.

Her life's mantra was, "Choose joy and be thankful in the midst of your trials. You might even have to sing for it." Her favorite scripture was, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

We gratefully acknowledge those who lovingly contributed to her care: The Hospice of Acadiana team, especially nurses Jonathan Bourque and previously, Bonnie Whatley, as well as Kent Zeringue, who provided many delicious meals. Also, special thanks to Lou's personal caregivers, including but not limited to April Gobert – her primary caregiver, Delores Babineaux, Roberta Wilkerson, Eunice Pitre, Rebecca Senegal, Esther Broussard, and others, as well as the many past caregivers including Bertha Noel, Diane Alexander, Royal Broussard and Right at Home Agency. Your love and patience was greatly appreciated.

The family requests that visiting hours be observed at Delhomme Funeral Home – Bertrand on Friday, January 31, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. A Rosary will be prayed at 1:00 PM on Friday afternoon by the Catholic Daughters.

Pallbearers will be David West, Zach West, Luke Kimmel, Tyler Chance, Eugene Chiarulli, and Gary Kimmel.

Honorary Pallbearer is Marlin Kimmel.

Music at Mass will be provided by Spencer West, Chris and Kristy West.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Family Missions Company in Abbeville, LA at <http://www.familymissionscompany.com> or Hospice of Acadiana at <http://www.hospiceacadiana.com> .

Personal condolences may be sent to the Duplechain family at <http://www.delhommefuneralhome.com>.

Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 09:00AM - 01:30PM

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Delhomme Funeral Home

1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

JAN **Rosary** 01:00PM

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Delhomme Funeral Home

1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Delhomme Funeral Homes - January 29, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ Mike, Virginia, Christine and Sandra please accept my sympathy for the passing of your mother. I just learned of her death yesterday (February 12th) from Rodger Robinson who told me he saw the obituary in the paper. She was a very good friend in all the 22 years I worked for your dad at KFR. We all shared some good times and I have many great memories of my time with all of you. I remember she made some pork pie for us. Delicious. May she be at peace in the loving arms of her savior Jesus Christ. Sarah Belle (Sam) Minor, Thibodaux, LA 70301

Sarah Belle (Sam) Minor - February 13, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ “Sam”... So glad to hear from you. Blessings. (Virginia.)

Virginia Riley - April 18, 2020 at 03:31 AM



“ I came here to find out where to send a memoriam for Mrs. Lou, and I am so glad I didn't miss the beautiful video that was made to honor her life. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the pictures of her throughout the years. I feel so honored to have gotten to know her. She truly has left a legacy of love, compassion, & true Christianity for her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Ps. 116:15 I look forward to seeing her again in glory!

Beth Chance - February 08, 2020 at 10:43 PM



“ Thank you Beth!

Virginia Riley - May 21, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Family Missions Company purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Laura “Lou” Duplechain.



Family Missions Company - January 30, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Laura “Lou” Duplechain.



January 30, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ Women of God, running after God's own heart, she and I would pray together during my shift!!! I could never forget about our walks and talks during her evening walks!!! My condolences to the family with continuous prayers!!!!

BerthaNoel - January 29, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ What a kind and precious lady, I am so glad We got to know her. Thinking of you and praying for you and your family. A gift of your choosing will be sent to you,Christine, in memory of your mother. We love you. The Kimmel Family

carolyn kimmel - January 29, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. I remember you when you were in Franklin and taught some of you at Hanson. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Pamala Adams - January 29, 2020 at 07:39 AM



“ From Mark and Ginger Hancock purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Laura “Lou” Duplechain.



From Mark and Ginger Hancock - January 28, 2020 at 10:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Laura “Lou” Duplechain.



January 28, 2020 at 05:01 PM