



## Judith May Stepp (nee Lanfear)

January 31, 1930 - January 5, 2022

Judith May Stepp (nee Lanfear)

Born: January 31, 1930

Deceased: January 5, 2022

Our beloved Judy is in the company of angels. She passed, peacefully and surrounded by her children, on January 5 in the warm embrace of her home.

We were blessed to share Judy's life of 91 years. She was the steady hand on the tiller of a large, loving and admittedly loud brood of nine children, 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Born in Bay City, Mich., on January 31, 1930, Judy met John Stepowski while they were both working at the J.L. Hudson department store in Detroit. The iron-willed Judy had found her soulmate in the gentle mannered John. They raised their children in a close-knit neighborhood in Warren, Mich., making many lifelong friendships. Road trips in the notoriously unreliable station wagon, to the family cottage in Harrisville and beyond, were the stuff of legends. Beach stones had a way of disappearing when the Stepps were around.

After their kids left the nest, John and his cherished "Jud" moved to Rochester Hills. It was there, in a house brimming with joyous children and "happy"

adults, that Judy hosted epic Christmas Eve gatherings that lasted into the wee hours. So giving was her nature that it took two rooms, and two Christmas trees, to accommodate all the happy surprises.

An industrious, hard-working and profoundly faithful woman, Judy was a schoolgirl when she took her first job in the parish office at St. Benedict School in Highland Park, Mich. She later enjoyed a long tenure at the Knights of Columbus/Bishop Murphy Credit Union in Warren before embarking on a real estate career. She was a devout Roman Catholic, practicing her faith at St. Andrew's and St. Mary's of the Hills churches and following the teachings of Capuchin wonderworker Father Solanus Casey. It was not uncommon to get a vial of "Father Solanus oil" from Judy if you were in a tough spot.

When not consumed with the always challenging task of parenting five girls and four boys – she was a prolific porch-light-flipper if the goodnight kiss went on too long -- Judy enjoyed reading, golf and leisurely afternoons at one of the family cottages in Caseville.

Judy is pre-deceased by husband John, parents Marie and Harold Lanfear, son-in-law Vincent Marinelli, granddaughter Ashley Stepp, brothers Harold, Terry, Carl, and Dennis; sisters Gerry Meissner, Pat Prager and Joann Monti.

She is survived by siblings Michael Lanfear (Joanie), Kay Kelly, Jane Lamb (David); children Marcie Smartt (Larry), Susan Marinelli, John Stepp (Debbie), Peggy Stepp, Nancy Beneteau (Marty), Judy Dwyer (Mark), Michael Stepp (Patricia), Jimmy Stepp (Maria), David Stepp (Marie); grandchildren Katie, Laura, Peter, Allison, Chris, Emily, Jacob, Zachary, Michael, Megan, Molly, Ellen, Nicko, Marianna, John Anthony, Giovanna, Calise and Karlin, and 13 great grandchildren.

Heartfelt thanks to Becky LaRocca, Judy's care giver of more than eight

years, and the palliative staff at Hospice of Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Hospice of Michigan at [www.hom.org](http://www.hom.org), the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or the Solanus Casey Center at [www.solanuscenter.org](http://www.solanuscenter.org) are encouraged.

A mass in celebration of Judy's life will be held at St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R, Rochester Hills, on Saturday, January 8. Visitation at 10 a.m. will be followed by a service at 11 a.m.

A livestream is available via [www.smoth.org](http://www.smoth.org) during the service.

# Previous Events

## Instate

JAN 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church  
2675 John R.  
Rochester Hills, MI

## Mass of the Christian Burial

JAN 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of the Hills Catholic Church  
2675 John R.  
Rochester Hills, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Judith May Stepp (nee Lanfear)*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Judith May Stepp (nee Lanfear)*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Judith. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of her life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Stepp family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Judith.*

**Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin** - January 10, 2022 at 07:04 PM



“ *The Stepp house was always a warm, welcoming place, and I’m blessed to have been able to feel like I was part of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Stepp raised a terrific bunch. I thank them for giving me Nancy- the sister I always wanted, and will forever cherish. I see her beautiful mother in her all of the time- her love, humor, compassion, strength, and loyalty. The tender care and love you’ve given your mom through this long journey is a testament to her influence on who you all are. You traveled the road with her, and she was never alone. I know she felt all of that love, every minute. Her journey is over, but the love lives on forever. “For the God of love shall keep all kindred spirits close together, through the misty veil between this world, and that to come.”*

*Love, Kathleen (Daniels) Goussy*

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**Kathleen Goussy** - January 08, 2022 at 03:07 PM

TI

“ I knew there were a lot of Stepps, but I didn't know there were nine of you all. Good God that's 50% more than our family! No wonder she was always so happy at the credit union. :)

*Mrs. Stepp was very special to the McNelis family. We got to know her quite well at the credit union. She kind , warm hearted, exceedingly welcoming, and very good at what she did. She took care of us.*

*I remember, when I was in my early 20's, I quit my job as an orderly to get a job in my field - teaching. I started as a substitute teacher. Unfortunately, not enough teachers were getting sick, and I started missing payments on my new car. I went in the the credit union to tell Tom that I was going to have to sell the car.*

*He wasn't there, but your Mom sat down with me. I was feeling pretty bad about the situation and myself, but she told me these things happen. For about a half hour, she proceeded to walk me through a variety of ways that I could still afford to make the payments and keep the car. She did this in a way that I actually felt good about myself by the time the discussion ended. Although I eventually did sell the car, I think it speaks volumes about the type of person she was. She cared. She truly was very special.*

*My sincere condolences to the Stepp family. May God bless all of you and her.*

*Know that your Mom meant a lot to a whole bunch of people.*

*Tim McNelis*

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**Tim** - January 08, 2022 at 10:56 AM

CM

“ Beautiful obituary for an awesome lady! Aunt Judy always livened up a wedding or family gathering. May your great memories of your Mom console you.

Charlie and Colleen Monti - January 07, 2022 at 07:24 PM

JD

“ Condolences to the entire Stepp family. Your mother was a wonderful, kind, generous person. I can still hear her laughter back on Rome. I always knew she was looking out for us Daniels kids from across the street.  
Jim Daniels

jim daniels - January 07, 2022 at 01:38 PM

KH

“ Our sincere condolences to Nancy and your entire family. You are all in our prayers and thoughts. We hope knowing your mom is in the arms of Our Lord will bring you comfort and peace. 🙏💕 Keith & Betty



Keith and Betty Hopkins - January 06, 2022 at 06:50 PM

GO

“ Gary and I would like to offer our deepest sympathies to the entire Stepp family. We will remember Judy as a beautiful lady both inside and out! That smile!💕. Your family has gone above and beyond for your Mom for many years now and she is smiling down of you, full of pride!! Rest peacefully Judy. 💕. Love, Gary & Mary Oriet

Gary & Mary Oriet - January 06, 2022 at 05:21 PM

BB

“ We really enjoyed both your mom and dad the few times we saw them. Really lovely people and your mom had the most beautiful smile! Cherish all of your wonderful memories. Sending lots of love, Mick and Becky

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**Becky Beneteau** - January 06, 2022 at 04:42 PM