



Mary Louise Ames

April 27, 1929 - July 19, 2020

Mary Louise Ames, 91, of Rensselaer, Ind., passed away July 19, 2020 at the Franciscan Health Rensselaer. She was born on April 27, 1929 in Rensselaer, Ind. to Ivan and Madge (Bishop) George. Her mother was a homemaker, and her father served in the Navy during World War II.

A lifelong resident of Rensselaer, Ind., she attended the Rensselaer Schools. She married Dale L. Ames on April 10, 1946 in Rensselaer, Ind. Dale preceded her in death on January 10, 1965.

In January 1964, Louise started taking classes and working at SJC. She worked for Student Financial Services and was a switchboard operator before graduating from SJC in 1972 with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. After graduating from SJC, Louise worked as a child welfare caseworker for the Jasper County Department of Public Welfare 1972-1990. She then went on to be the Director of the Rensselaer Adult Learning Center, which she founded as an extension of the Portage Adult Education program. The program aims to provide adults with basic job skills and educational requirements, and it was her mission to afford adults the opportunity to further their education. After Louise retired from the Rensselaer Adult Learning Center, she stayed on as a volunteer, helping to facilitate the Center's move to Drexel Hall on the SJC campus.

In 2010, she took the required training course to be a volunteer for Court

Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA). CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children. Louise continued to volunteer until her health forced her to slow down. She received the Community Service Award from the Rensselaer Alumni Association in 2008.

Louise was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rensselaer where she served as an Elder of the Church. She was also a member of the Harris Homes Board of Trustees, the Indiana State Employee Association, a former member of the SJC Alumni Board and SJC Council of Fellows.

She enjoyed attending SJC men's and women's basketball games and plays and musical events on the campus for over 25 years. In her spare time she loved reading, gardening, and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Louise is survived by her children, Robert (Marna) Ames of Marian, IL, Garry Rex (Deb) Ames of Oakwood, GA, Roger (Jan) Ames of Oxford, OH, and Daniel (Kathy) Ames of Morton, IL; her siblings, Robert George of Yucca Valley, CA, Beverly (Don) Teel of Stonewall, OK, and Karen Bell of Prattville, AL; eleven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers, William George and Dean George, along with her brother-in-law, William Bell.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, burial will take place at Memory Gardens of Rensselaer with a memorial service to be held at a later date.

Previous Events

Memorial Services

JUL 18. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Rensselaer

220 N. Cullen Street

Rensselaer, IN 47978

(219) 866-7005

churchoffice@firstpresrensselaer.org

<http://www.firstpresrensselaer.org/>

Tribute Wall

LP

“ Louise was a wonderful person. She was our welfare worker in 1980. She flew to Atlanta, Ga to testify for us in a child custody case that ended in our favor. I truly believe it was because of her willingness to go there and testify that we won. She changed the lives of 3 little boys who would have been separated for life. I will be forever grateful to her and her love of children and helping people. RIP Mrs. Ames, you were an angel on earth.

Lisa Pollock - August 06, 2020 at 10:22 PM

DS

“ Doris Saulmon lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Ames



Doris Saulmon - July 24, 2020 at 12:37 AM

DS

I moved from Rensselaer in 2008. I have thought about Louise so many times. I remember when 3 of us went to Alaska with one of St. Joes sports teams. We had such a good time. My condolences to Louise's family!

Doris Saulmon - July 24, 2020 at 12:46 AM

V-

“ Louise and I met at church. We quickly became friends. She was a wonderful lady who truly loved her boys and family. I will miss her. I'm sending my love and condolences to her boys and family.

Vanessa Paschke -Jefferson - July 23, 2020 at 02:29 PM

ML

“ *Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Ames*



Martha Langley - July 23, 2020 at 12:39 PM

KS

“ *Louise was a good, faithful member of First Presbyterian who was always willing to work and contribute however she could. Kind and gentle, smart and dedicated to “the least of these.” God receives her with “Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

kathy staddon - July 22, 2020 at 02:01 PM

JL

“ *Bob, Rex, Roger, Danny and all of Louise's Family, We are so very sorry to learn of your loss and we send our deepest sympathy to all of you. Louise was a very special lady who always made us feel good to be in her presence. She always had a beautiful smile and a loving mannerism. She was a great representative of the friendliness Rensselaerians are noted for. We are thankful that we had the honor and privilege of knowing such a beautiful lady. She has now joined your dad after a very long separation. May she rest in peace.*
Jim & Dorothy Gilbert Lefler



Jim & Dorothy Lefler - July 22, 2020 at 11:13 AM

SP

“ I was a foster child louise was my caseworker she was a very understanding and caring person! I'll never forget her she helped me so much she gave me a loving caring foster family I called mom and dad!

Sherry Goad Picking - July 22, 2020 at 10:38 AM

SD

“ Louise was such a sweet and kind person. The youth at Rensselaer First Presbyterian enjoyed making her cards and singing Christmas Carols on visits while she was in alturna-care. She always had something nice to say to me when I saw her at church. She will be missed.



Stephanie Davisson - July 22, 2020 at 09:40 AM

JF

“ Janet Murray Fisher lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Ames



Janet Murray Fisher - July 22, 2020 at 09:24 AM

MB

“ Myles Beeching lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Ames



Myles Beeching - July 22, 2020 at 08:26 AM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Ames*



Judy Burvan - July 22, 2020 at 06:24 AM

GW

“ *So sorry for your loss. Louise was a beautiful soul, and wonderful mother.*



Gayla Warran - July 21, 2020 at 11:03 PM

TR

“ *Louise was a special lady and I adored her. She was so much fun. I will miss her. Love to her family as they say goodbye, especially my friend Dan.*



Teresa Rishel - July 21, 2020 at 10:51 PM

SC

“ *What a blessing to everyone who knew her. Such a special lady. Prayers for all.*



Susie Childs Canaday - July 21, 2020 at 06:52 PM

MH

“ It made my day to see her smile. She will be missed by many. 🙏

Michelle Hopkins - July 21, 2020 at 06:45 PM

DE

“ I had the opportunity of working with Louise at JCH before getting to know her better later in life. She was very proud of each of her sons! I so enjoyed knowing your mom. I'm sure she is happily reunited with your dad.



Deb Ellis - July 21, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DS

“ Louise was a kind caring beautiful lady.. well known from so many.. she definitely helped many people in her life. I enjoyed taking her shopping and enjoying a hot fudge sundae and watching Saint Joe's collage football team practice .. My condolences to the family.. 💕



Donna Sullivan - July 21, 2020 at 06:11 PM

RN

“ Louise as a remarkable woman who shared her caring ways with many throughout her life well lived.



Rose Nesius - July 21, 2020 at 05:48 PM

DW

“ *Don And Gloria Waymouth lit a candle in
memory of Mary Louise Ames*



Don and Gloria Waymouth - July 21, 2020 at 04:52 PM