



Sharon Taylor MacGaw

January 28, 1945 - December 19, 2020

Sharon Taylor MacGaw was born on January 28, 1945 in Woodsville, New Hampshire, to Margaret Church Taylor and Harold Taylor Jr. She passed away on December 19, 2020 in Memphis, Tennessee with her family by her side

She was the first from her family to graduate from college and she used her degree from University of New Hampshire to teach first grade in Memphis. She had three children: Mark, Heather, and Scott MacGaw. Sherry was a devoted mom — notes in lunch boxes, personalized heart-shaped cakes for each kid in the class on Valentine's Day, and driving her sons to out-of-town baseball card shows and tennis tournaments. She gave all of her time and energy to her family.

When her kids were older, she gave her time and energy to others. She moved to Colorado to support her brother's new business. She later moved from Colorado to Vermont to help care for her dad as he battled dementia. She was brave, resilient, and remarkably strong.

Mom spent 20 great years in Burlington before returning to Memphis in August 2020 to be closer to the family she loved as her health declined. In Vermont, she had friends in garden club, mahjong, book club, Red Hat Society, and a kidney transplant support group. She also held dear her original Memphis bridge group and loved to join them for reunion weekends.

She loved to entertain, and had dishes and decor for any occasion. Mom entertained with all the attention to detail and comforts of a great hostess, but with none of the formality. She was down to earth, warm, and so sweet. She loved peanut M&Ms and coffee. She loved to ski in her youth. She loved planning for holidays. She didn't love cats, wrinkled clothes or humid weather. She loved being a part of big family gatherings, reading books with her grandkids and nibbling on a chocolate dessert over the course of an afternoon.

We love you mom.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents and sister Andrea Taylor. She is survived by her brother David (& Dianne) Taylor of Waterford, VT; sister Sandra Taylor of Hopewell Junction, NY; childhood sweetheart and father of her three children, Douglas MacGaw of Memphis, TN; son Mark (& Kelly) MacGaw of Memphis; daughter Heather (& John) Casper of Winona, MN; son Scott (& Elizabeth) MacGaw of Nashville, TN; nieces Cortney, Kate, Sierra, Katie, Cody; and nine grandchildren: Ian, Merritt, Margaret, Zoe, Max, Lizzy, Phoebe, Jack, and Elliot.

A family graveside service will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers and donations, we know Mom would love for you to send a handwritten card to someone you love, set out the good china, and don't leave the house without peanut M&Ms.

Click the link below to view the tribute slideshow:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/2W3GSPHM3GB9TLJ5>

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - December 24, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ What a wonderful tribute we will miss you forever
Love, Denny & Linda

Denny & Linda Johnson - December 29, 2020 at 01:37 PM



“ Sunshine. Seeing her in the picture gallery reminds me how often she smiled. There was never a time I saw her—even at low tide—that she wasn't smiling.

Mark Amonett - December 29, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ Sending my love and sympathy to all y'all MacGaws. I was very lucky to get to know Sherry when I was a teenager so that I could have her example of the kind of person I wanted to become and, indeed, am still trying to become. An artist of life, she made each moment special, adding to it her creativity, thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness. Today is New Year's Day, and I put out the good china in her memory. I will keep on celebrating her in my life and carrying her and her family in my heart.

Alana Conner - January 01, 2021 at 10:59 PM



“ It was 1978 when we moved to Richman Square. The first person to knock on my door was Mary B. Very soon after she introduced me to Sherry then I introduced them to Karen L. another transplant, from Texas . And as they say ”the rest in history”. Babies were born, toddlers were watched, afternoons were spent at the pool, tennis and bridge were played, dinner parties shared and beach vacations taken. Once we even cleaned 80 pounds of shrimp together, from the back of a pick-up. One of my favorite memories: Strawberry daiquiris in our back yard talking with the girls and watching our healthy and happy little ones play together. After we moved away 3 short years later we stayed in touch, visiting each other and going on vacation together, including a memorable Caribbean cruise.

17 years ago two of our children married and we now share 4 beautiful grandchildren. A wonderful family legacy for us all, from the always smiling Sherry. We will miss Sherry, one of our oldest and dearest friends. We choose to remember all those fabulous memories, and more, and are thankful for having had her in our lives.

Chris and Kurt Reimann



Kurt & Chris Reimann - January 05, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ Mark, Heather, Scott, Doug,
All of you are in my thoughts. Memories of time shared with your family years ago have filled my mind and it has taken me a while to process and find words. Sharon was an important part of my teenage and young adult years and she gave me many cherished gifts. She welcomed me into your home and made me feel like a member of the family - which meant more to me than I can express. She shared valuable life lessons and advice that I have carried with me - some of which I've only come to better understand as I've aged. She offered encouragement to follow my dreams and build a full life. She & Doug gifted me a beautiful dress at high school graduation that I am still wearing. It is especially meaningful because Sharon selected it specifically for me & as it couldn't have been more suited to me, it made me feel known. And loved.

Years later whenever I saw Sharon she'd tell me how proud she was of her children and with her eyes sparkling and a grin from ear to ear she'd show me photos of her beautiful grandchildren. When I think of Sharon I think of her with love and gratitude remembering her beautiful bright smile and joy filled laugh. I will miss her.

My love is with you all now.

Darian Corley - January 02, 2021 at 11:48 PM



“ Sherry was a dear friend for many years. I met Sherry in 1969 after my husband, Charlie, and I married. Charlie and Doug shared a cadaver in anatomy class in medical school. We remained friends throughout the years. Sherry and I were in a bridge group together the 5 years we were in Memphis. Charlie and I and Doug and Sherry played bridge together all the time because we had no money to go out. Charlie and Doug did their residencies together at St. Jude. The 4 of us traveled to a medical conference together in San Francisco. We had a blast because we rarely had a treat like that. The hospital was paying for the hotel and travel for the guys. Sherry gave me a baby shower when I had my first baby in 1972. Then I gave her a shower when she was pregnant with Mark. Our lives intersected whenever we had a chance to visit them in Memphis. And we always exchanged Christmas cards through the years. She was a wonderful friend, always had a smile, and made the best of every situation. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who had the privilege to know her.



Janis Mitchell - December 31, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ To all of Sherry's family ~~
The deepest sympathy on the loss of the most beautiful spirit, dear Sherry. She was loved by so many in the Burlington (Vermont) Garden Club and will forever remain a lovely flower in our hearts. Sweet dreams, dearest Sherry.....
Jan DeSarno, Co-President
Burlington Garden Club

Janet DeSarno - December 28, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ We knew Sherry for a very short time when we were neighbors at Shelburne Bay. We walked, talked and visited each whenever we could. She was kind and caring inspire of her failing health. We are grateful that we shared even this short time with her. She spoke often of her children and grandchildren and was looking forward to being closer to the grandchildren and attending their special events. Thank you for sharing the special video that gave us a glimpse of her earthly journey. May your faith sustain you, your memories comfort you and may Sherry be at peace.

With care and sympathy,

Lois D'Arcangelo
Pat Reasoner

Lois D'Arcangelo - December 27, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Doug, Mark, Heather, Scott and families.....It has taken me a couple of days to accept that Sherri has left us....She has always been the strongest, most determined little one, that has always been loved and admired by all that were lucky to call her friend.....and in my case, classmate as well, from Grade five through WHS Class of '63 !! Although we went in separate directions after high school, we always remained in touch and got together whenever we got "back home"....some wonderful times and memories and the pictures to prove it ~ We share a January birthday and she always reminded me that I was older than she was -- by 2 weeks !! Will always remember the great birthday party at her house when we were in grade 8 -- no pictures !!! and the surprise party for Sherri at her home in Vermont -- wonderful time with such great friends...and there are pictures !!! My sympathy to all who knew and loved her, she will always bring happy thoughts and being blessed that she was/is always part of our lives. She will be forever missed...
Love from one who is lucky to have had her in my life....Ann K. Amadon



Ann Amadon - December 27, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ To the family of our dear friend Sherry. Please accept our deepest sympathy for your loss. Sherry was a beautiful lady inside and out. Her courageous spirit was uplifting, her smile and her kindness was a treasured gift and a wonderful lasting memory. For many years, she was a member of the Burlington, VT. Garden Club and she loved attending the Garden Club meetings and activities, The members will truly miss her cheerfulness, her warm and welcoming personality. May she rest in peace. Doris J. Van Mullen

Doris Atkins Van Mullen - December 27, 2020 at 05:19 PM



“ Mark and family,
I want to extend my sympathy at this time of loss. Seeing Sharon's smile brought back many happy memories of the years we were connected through Christ Methodist Day School. We moms got to know each other and worked together through soccer, class performances, and birthday parties. Those were good times, and I remember her as an important part of my past.
You remain in my thoughts and prayers.
Ann Bendall
(Scott's mom)

Ann - December 27, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mark, Heather & Scott & the rest of her family. Gene & I had known Sherry for more than 4 decades. We moved to Memphis in 1977 with our first son & not having family in the area, I immediately went searching for a friend. I pushed the stroller around the neighborhood & took note of all the houses with signs of young children & kept walking by those houses until finally I met them. Sherry was who I found & we became lifelong friends & they were our Memphis family. We spent years sharing our children's birthdays & holidays & enjoyed garden club & our several bridge groups. Our Richmond Square bridge group started taking bridge retreats together in 1998 & have done so every year until this year of Covid-19. Sherry joined us most every year even when she lived miles away. Our trips took us to a half dozen cooking class weekends in East TN, train trip to New Orleans, Lake Ouachita & Garvin Woodland Gardens in AR, bed & breakfast inns in East Hills, TN, Corinth, MS & Pickwick just to list a few. Sherry was such a fun & loving person & we will miss her terribly. Rest well dear friend.
Love, Gene & Mary



Mary Bagaglio - December 26, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ Wonderful neighbors and early babysitter for Mark, Heather and Scott. We had some fun times. Mom and Sherry played so much bridge together, but mostly enjoyed each others friendship. Great annual reunions followed when some moved out of state. Your words captured Sherry to a tee.

May your beautiful memories sustain you in the coming days.
Peace,

Lori Pesce Pearce

Lori Pearce - December 26, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ My dearest friend since the first day we met at UNH in September, 1963. I was blessed to share so many good and tough times through the years.

Carole Cushman - December 25, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ Truly sorry for your loss. A true new englander from new ampsheer. A real Culture shock when they came to Memphis and med school. She gave it her all. So many owe her so much. May she rest in peace and may God bless those she loved . I taught near her in primary grades at Gordon school. Difficult Sharon worked hard....Rest now.



A fellow teacher. - December 25, 2020 at 12:16 AM