



Mary Ellen Decker

October 2, 2020

Mary Ellen (Kuss) Decker, 80, of Lancaster, PA

On Friday, October 2nd, 2020 we lost a quintessential American Beauty. She had a great personality, classic style and grace, was a phenomenal cook (with or without a recipe), and a legendary Lancaster realtor. She had too many friends to count, was happily married for 61 years and was the glue of the extended Decker/Kuss clans - hosting 42 Thanksgiving weekends in her School Lane Hills home.

Born in Allentown, PA, Mary Ellen was the daughter of the late August Charles and Pauline Kuss. Mary Ellen graduated from Endicott College in Beverly, MA where she was introduced to her husband, Tom. They married after a short courtship and had an enduring, wonderful marriage. After Tom and Mary Ellen moved to Lancaster in 1983, Mary Ellen obtained her real estate license. She was a very successful realtor for 25 years, starting at Coldwell Banker and making her last sale at Berkshire Hathaway's firm.

Mary Ellen made everything look effortless and easy. Due to her exceptional talent for selling real estate and her dedication to the Lancaster community, Mary Ellen had many friends in all walks of life. She was a Boys & Girls Club Board Member, Participant in Leadership Lancaster and was a devoted member of St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster and First Presbyterian

Church of Naples, FL.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children, Thomas Decker, Jr., (Robin) of Severna Park, MD, Jane Ellen Baker (Paul), Charles Town, West Virginia, and Andrew Decker (Jennifer), Gates Mills, OH; six grandchildren, John “Jake” Bullock, Alec and Mitchell Decker, Elaine “Lainey” Decker, Katherine “Katie” Decker, Mary “Molly” Decker; and her brother, August Charles “Chick” Kuss, Jr. She was preceded in death by her brother, John “Jack” Kuss. Mary Ellen was very close to many of her nieces and nephews and was a beloved, loyal Aunt.

A public Memorial Service will take place at The Farm at Eagles Ridge, 465 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Wednesday October 7th at 11:00 a.m. The family will greet friends at The Farm at Eagles Ridge from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. (Social distancing and masks will be required)

The Memorial Service will be available to view on the Tribucast link on Wednesday, October 7 at 3pm <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/81522835>

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster, 116 S. Water Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, St. James Episcopal Church, 119 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA, 17602 Or the Alzheimer’s Association in Mary Ellen’s memory.

Boys Club link

<https://bgclanc.org/>)

Alzheimer’s Association Link

<https://www.alz.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Farm at Eagles Ridge
465 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603

Memorial Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Farm at Eagles Ridge
465 Long Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Ellen Decker*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 06, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ *Mary Ellen Decker*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Tom and family:
So sorry to hear about Mary Ellen. She was a classy lady with charm and expertise with clients in real estate.
Sorry we missed hearing about the service.
With deepest sympathy.
Ron and Dee*

ron smith - October 09, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 09, 2020 at 01:49 PM

RS

“ *Mary Ellen was a wonderful friend in High School (AHS), a sorority sister and a drum majorette at AHS , as I recall. We spent many fun times together and she will be missed. I loved being with her.*

*ROSLYN COSKERY SOUSER, MD, MBA, FACS
Diplomate, American Board of Plastic Surgery
Diplomate, American Board of General Surgery
44 Haverford Road
Ardmore, Pa. 19003*

Email: rcs.ps@verizon.net

Roslyn Coskery Souser - October 07, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Decker.*



October 07, 2020 at 08:17 AM

DR

“ Tom
To you and your family Jackie McDonald and I send our condolences, thoughts and prayers during this time. May she Rest In Peace .
Dominic Ruggerio '61

Dominic Ruggerio - October 06, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 06, 2020 at 04:02 PM

MF

“ We send to all of the Decker family our most sincere sympathy and condolences for your loss. Mrs. Decker, as she was known to me, was the epitome of class and style. She was a wonderful lady who was forever kind and welcoming. She will be missed, but our fond memories of her will always endure. All of our best, Mark Ford & Family

Mark Ford - October 06, 2020 at 02:16 PM

BZ

“ Has been a long time since we crossed paths, like 64 years. My wife and I express our deepest sympathy on your wifes passing. One of the lasting memories I have of Norwich is when you and Sully were on the sentanial stairs, in the evening, and you both needed just a little bit of guidance to get you both back to your rooms. Life goes on and we always have our good memories that we depend on.
Bob and Dodie Zarse

Bob Zarse - October 06, 2020 at 01:00 PM

HT

“ Tom: John and I are thinking of you and your family as you mourn the loss of your mom and celebrate her life. Sending our most heartfelt condolences.

Heidi Taflan - October 06, 2020 at 11:04 AM

SS

“ Tom, Sue and I are so sorry for your loss. I know that the past period of time has been difficult for Mary Ellen and you, but hopefully now she is at peace. God bless you and your family.

Steve Senkowski

Steve Senkowski - October 06, 2020 at 10:22 AM

KA

“ She was a classy lady. Someone women, young girls could look up to and see her do everything: mom, business, wife, grand mom, friend, community leader. She always made you feel like you were the only thing she had to focus on when you were with her. I hope everyone takes a minute to focus on someone else, building them up, helping them achieve and not be distracted. That focus meant the world to me. I always looked up to her and will value the time I shared with her and the family. She is missed, but never ever will she be forgotten. love and prayers to the family! From Karen and the Boys Club

Karen - October 06, 2020 at 09:28 AM

MM

“ So sorry to hear of your loss of Mary Ellen! Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Ulysses and Megan Moore (Berkshire Family)

Megan Moore - October 05, 2020 at 06:26 PM

FB

Gods blessings to you and your family.
Frank and Sharon Burnside

Frank Burnside - October 06, 2020 at 07:02 AM



Tom, am so sorry about your loss! Do savor your cherished & loving memories& may she resting peace! Newton Pendleton

Newton Pendleton - October 06, 2020 at 12:30 PM

RS

Dear Tom and Family.....we were blessed to know your beautiful wife and mother.....She always made all of us from Norwich University feel so welcomed with her warm smile and great warmthher personality could fill a room with her grace and charm.....We were so lucky to know her and will always remember her at Norwich.....RADM Rich Schneider, President Emeritus

Richard Schneider - October 06, 2020 at 02:39 PM

OM

Dear Tom and Family, you are in our prayers and thoughts. We are so sorry to hear of Mary Ellen's passing. With Deepest Sympathy. Oatsie (and Ken) March

olive march - October 07, 2020 at 07:43 AM



“ 98 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 05, 2020 at 04:59 PM

TK

“ Tom and Family, We are saddened to read of Mary Ellen’s passing. Our condolences and prayers are with you. Tom specifically recalls Mary Ellen’s very kind Boys and Girls Club mentoring as a new Board member. Also, we recall fondly our New York weekend with the Cowls and Deckers.
Tom and Sharon Kennedy

Tom and Sharon Kennedy - October 05, 2020 at 03:45 PM

JS

“ I am so sorry for the loss of this wonderful woman. She was a dear friend of my parents and our family for many years. My she now rest in peace and be whole again in Heaven.
Fondly,
Jennifer Droz Switch

Jennifer Switch - October 05, 2020 at 09:21 AM

HS

“ A loving, giving soul will be sadly missed by all her friends. Mary Ellen always went above and beyond all her tasks and with a light heart. Devoted to Tom and her family she exemplified how life could and should be lived.
God’s blessings to all who mourn Mary Ellen’s passage into eternal life.
Helen Stine
A friend in Lancaster and Naples

helen stine - October 04, 2020 at 01:20 PM

ED

“ I knew Mary Ellen through real estate. If you were fortunate enough to be represented by Mary Ellen you were in very good hands. I was the listing agent in a new home development. When Mary Ellen arrived with her clients to inspect the nearly completed construction, the builder's rep said "Here comes Mary Ellen. Put on your hard hats!"

She is missed. Ed Diller

Ed Diller - October 04, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Mary Ellen



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 03, 2020 at 12:05 PM



My wonderful dear Aunt and friend, Mary Ellen. I will love and miss you forever.....Niece Jody

Jody Kuss - October 04, 2020 at 06:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Mary Ellen and Tom



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - October 03, 2020 at 12:01 PM

MT

We went to high school together and as I look at these photos, I see her as then looking elegant and leaning in with a smiling Tom. My warmest thoughts and happy memories go out to the entire Kuss/Decker families.

Marian Rapoport Thier - October 05, 2020 at 04:27 PM

AP

Mary Ellen was a beautiful soul inside and out. With her clients, she reminded me of that old saying from the South--steel magnolia. Soft, quiet voice--with a warrior's heart. She will be missed. God speed, Mary Ellen. For Mary Ellen's family--the tears will dry and you will eventually smile and remember the very best memories. Her gift to you. Anne D. Pyle

Anne Pyle - October 05, 2020 at 04:55 PM

CD

Tom is my older brother.. Mary Ellen was in my high school class. He came to pick me up after school one day, Mary Ellen was with the group. Tom said to me "who the hell is that!?!". Sixty one years of marriage and their magnificent family. Every word written here it true. Any time I hear the name Mary Ellen, or think of Mary Ellen Kuss Decker, all these sentiments will fill my mind.

charles Decker - October 08, 2020 at 03:42 PM