



Mary Pearle Kilheffer

June 16, 2024

Mary Pearle “Polly” Kilheffer, 97, of Lancaster, entered eternal rest on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at Brethren Village, Lititz. She was the widow of A. Victor Kilheffer who predeceased her by twenty years.

Born in Somerset, PA, she was the daughter of the late Richard E. and Pearl (Friedline) Pugh.

She graduated from Somerset High School in 1944.

Polly was a linotype operator for 23 years. She worked for several newspapers, Somerset Daily American, Meyersdale Republican, Lititz Record Express, and for Fulton Press and Forry & Hacker printing firms. After retirement, in 1981, she was a substitute operator for Ephrata Review. On July 31, 1990, an article, “Lady of the Linotype,” was printed in the New Era about Polly’s career.

She was married 38 years to deceased Robert F. Tipton. Tipton was the VP of Science Press, Ephrata. He organized and curated SP’s Russel C. Hughes Printing Museum in which Polly demonstrated the linotype for seminars and tours.

For six years, Polly was a part-time receptionist at Donecker’s Artworks in Ephrata. While SP’s printing museum was housed there, Polly demonstrated the antique linotype for tours and visitors.

A traveler, Polly visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Bahamas, Bermuda, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Hawaii, and most states in the US.

Polly had a special project, her Mailbox Ministry. Weekly amusing letters were sent to folks who needed to know someone cared. In each letter, Polly included original short stories, and stories about pets, travels, children, and fun times.

Polly had an interest in miniatures. Her 1930's era dollhouse is known for its details: dirty dishes in the sink, spilled milk on the floor, false teeth in the bathroom glass, real photos, and handmade rugs. The dollhouse was on display year-round and had three sets of trees for seasonal changes. Her sewing led to a personal project of creating Quiet Books for little children. As of 1998, she made 93 of those books.

She was active in Grace United Church of Christ, New Holland Pike where she served on the Church Council, Worship & Music Community, Women's Guild, and sang in the choir.

Polly is survived by her son, R. Bradley Tipton (Marleen) of Palmyra; daughter, Elizabeth Baucom (Richard) of VA; grandchildren, Edwin Tipton, Michelle Thompson, Michael Knauer, Merideth Miller, Erica Tipton, Evan Tipton, Jennifer Kirchner, Beth Kirchner Bunce; great-grandchildren, Karli Knauer, Kelly Mersnick, Ella Bunce, Ethan Tipton, Cadence Tipton; great-great grandchildren, Jasmine Lingo, Elliot Mersnick; and very close friends, Maxine and Paul Knauer, and Jill Tipton.

In addition to her parents and two husbands, Polly was preceded in death by her son, William R. Tipton; brother, Richard R. Pugh, and his wife Phyllis; and granddaughter, Pamela Tipton.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Polly's Memorial Service at Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 on July 13, 2024, at 1:00 PM with Chaplain Dana E. Statler officiating. The family will receive friends from noon until the time of service. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Polly's name to Brethren Village.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Brethren Village
3001 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA 17543

In the Chapel

Memorial Service

JUL 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

Brethren Village
3001 Lititz Pike
Lititz, PA 17543

Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Mama, as she was known to me, is in huge part, the reason I am who I am today. A beautifully loving, incredible, and inspiring woman.*

She lead by example by living such a rich life full of travel, family, career, and hobbies.

Her mailbox ministry letters and quiet books are legacies in my family. I especially appreciated the “grandparent” weekend adventures I and my siblings enjoyed with her. So much culture, history, and BIG fun! All these years later, I have a warm heart recalling her love and kindness.

May her sweet sweet soul rest in peace and may her memory be immortal!

Michelle Knauer - July 12, 2024 at 09:59 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mary Pearle Kilheffer.*



July 07, 2024 at 06:19 PM

BM

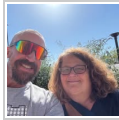
“ *Brad and Marlene planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Pearle Kilheffer.*

Brad and Marlene - July 07, 2024 at 06:19 PM

DF

“ Polly was kind, generous and giving. Our family remembers wonderful times with her. The picnic ants and letter from Santa both come to mind. I pray you will find comfort in good memories.

Dotti Ed Chris & Jon Flory - June 21, 2024 at 11:13 AM



Polly was an amazing woman. I am Victor's granddaughter Tracy and she encouraged him to have more of a relationship with my mom Bonnie who passed in 2018 and myself. I loved going to visit her and see her dollhouse. My children were the recipients of one of her quiet books and now my grandson enjoys this. I remember Polly and Victor attending my wedding. I loved receiving her letters and my mom did as well. We lost touch these past few years as my last letter to her telling her about my mom's passing in 2018. Fondly, Tracy Cooke Spencer

Tracy Spencer - June 25, 2024 at 06:18 PM

EB

Thank you for your kind comments ~ Polly's daughter, Betsy

Elizabeth Baucom - June 28, 2024 at 10:16 PM