



Miss Irene A. Coakley

December 19, 1950 - November 12, 2018

Miss Irene A. Coakley, 68, of Becket, died suddenly Monday morning in her home at Bancroft, in the farmhouse purchased by her great-grandmother Rose Vincent in 1891.

Irene was born in Pittsfield, the daughter of Capt. Raymond Coakley of the Pittsfield Police Force and Irene Munn of Bancroft. She graduated from St. Joseph's High School with the Class of 1968 and attended Berkshire Community College with a concentration in Art.

During her youth, Irene worked for the Pittsfield Parks Department as a Youth Leader and at the Elaine Powers Fitness Studios. She later taught at the Elm Street Nursery School and took employment at Vlada's Boutique in Stockbridge.

After marrying, Irene took possession of her family's farm in Becket, where she resided for 43 years between the brooks that flow down the hills to the Westfield River. There she raised and provided for her three children, assuming the position of bookkeeper with F.S. Whitney & Sons, and remaining with that company for twenty-five years. She then developed her long-term interest in antiques into a business, Bellefontaine Antiques, of Lenox and Pittsfield, which she ran for over ten years, and in which time was awarded the Best of Berkshires designation. In her last years, she managed La Pace and the American Craftsman Gallery, both of Lenox.

Irene adored the ocean and the sun, maintaining a life-long love affair with the beaches of the Outer Cape. She spent innumerable hours reading,

maintaining her gardens, and enjoying the tranquility of the forest. She truly loved to talk and spend time with her loved ones, to go out on the town for dinner and shopping, and to celebrate life and wonderful times with her friends and family

Irene's inherent joy and brightness were apparent to all who knew her. It is said a single candle can light a thousand. She will be forever loved and missed.

She is survived by three children, Shane Bates and Makari Bates-Lang, of Bancroft and Weinheim, Germany; Luke Bates and his companion Kerry Willig of N. Becket; and Alyssa Bates, of Bancroft; one brother Michael R. Coakley and his fiancé, Patricia Carchedi, of Pittsfield; and three grandchildren, Errol and Eloise Bates, of N. Becket; and Damaris Bates, of Bancroft and Weinheim.

Funeral Notice

The funeral will be on Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 11:30 AM with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Charles Church celebrated by Rev. A. Peter Gregory, Pastor Emeritus. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to help defray costs may be sent to Michael Coakley in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Previous Events

Service

NOV 17. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Charles Church

89 Briggs Ave.

Pittsfield, MA 01201

<http://stcharlespittsfield.org/>

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Irene. She was always friendly, sweet, and full of enthusiasm throughout our grammar school and high school years. Her presence made the world a brighter place.*

Maryann DelGallo Sherman - November 17, 2018 at 10:45 AM

JR

“ *Shane, Luke and Alisa,
I am so very sorry for the loss your family has experienced. Your mother is just one of those people who leaves a lasting impression. When I think of her I smile because that's always how she greeted you; a beautiful smile with her beautiful eyes and her beautiful soul. I remember going into her store when she first opened and could feel how excited she was to be sharing something she was passionate about. She toured us around the store showing us different things and of course there was a story to how she obtained it. Every time I would run into her over the years, she would give the run down on how you all where doing and what you were up to in your lives - always proud and excited to talk about her family. I hope that over time, with people sharing their memories and how your mother left an unforgettable mark on their lives, you are able to smile and find some relief. My sincere condolences - love and light to all of you. Jenn Ressler (Jenn LaFleur)*

Jennifer Ressler - November 17, 2018 at 10:14 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Miss Irene A. Coakley.*



November 16, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ *Dear Bates Coakley family,
My heart breaks for you all. Your Mom was a strong, kind and caring friend and neighbor. Her twinkling blue eyes and beautiful spirit will never be forgotten.
She was SO proud of all of you ! I'm sure she'll still be watching over you all...
Sending love and heartfelt sympathy,
Cindy Barber
New Marlborough MA*

Cindy Barber - November 16, 2018 at 01:56 PM



“ *Dear Bates, Coakley family,
My heart breaks for all of you... your Mom was a loving, kind and caring friend and neighbor.
I loved those piercing blue eyes and her generous spirit. She'll live on in all of you. She was SO proud of all her children! I'm sure she'll be watching over you always ...
Heartfelt sympathies and love to all of you,
Cindy Barber*

cindy barber - November 16, 2018 at 12:48 PM

NP

“ *Nancy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Miss Irene A. Coakley*



Nancy Peterson - November 16, 2018 at 12:15 PM

NP

“ *Dear Irene's Family*

As I read Irene's obituary this morning, I was so moved by the beauty of it. Irene and I were childhood friends whose paths crossed through the years.

Whoever wrote this lovely tribute, truly captured her essence. An effervescent soul who enriched so many lives. Her infectious laugh, her dazzling smile, and her innate ability to bring a smile to your face, were certainly apparent to all her knew her.

May your precious memories help you to endure the loss of Irene.

Sincerely

Nancy Curley Peterson

Trent Woods, NC

Nancy Peterson - November 16, 2018 at 11:05 AM

DE

“ *Dear Irene, You truly were a bright light whenever we met or spoke. I know you will be a bright star forever shining. Its hard to believe you won't be there on the other end of the phone line when we need some help or guidance on some "treasure". I'll miss you and your kindness. God bless your family as they go forward. Deb xox*

Deb - November 16, 2018 at 06:28 AM

NS

“ To the Bates-Coakley family, So saddened to learn of your moms passing. Though I can't be there in person to comfort you my thoughts filled with empathy for your sorrow are overwhelming. Please be strong for each other. She needs you to stick together and support one another now. This will show that all her hard work paid off and it will make her proud to know you guys can get through this impossible time as the strong, loving family that she spent her life creating. For me, your mom was a friend, adviser, confidant, and inspiration to me the 41yrs of our friendship. She will be deeply missed. Her smile, laugh, endless warm energy and love of the simple things in life will be with me always.



Nancy M. Smith - November 16, 2018 at 05:42 AM

JB

“ Irene's sparkling eyes shine on all who read the well written obituary by Shane. My love and friendship with Irene is everlasting.

JoAnn Bates - November 16, 2018 at 03:59 AM

SC

“ Irene was such a beautiful soul. Her smile would light up a room. She was a genuine beauty inside and out. Our deepest sympathy to her family, Jeff & Samantha Clifford

Samantha & Jeff Clifford - November 15, 2018 at 10:05 PM

SD

“ Very sorry for your loss.
Jack and Susan Deacon

susan Deacon - November 15, 2018 at 08:17 PM

DD

“ Douglas Dowd lit a candle in memory of Miss Irene A. Coakley



Douglas Dowd - November 15, 2018 at 08:12 PM

DS

“ Irene was such a wonderful woman and friend. So kind and caring to everyone. I have many pieces in my home that were purchased at her shop. Now they have an even more special meaning to me than they already had. I used to bring her coffee and just visit with her for a while. I will never forget her and her kindness and smile.

Donna (Jagiello) Sawtelle

Donna Jagiello Sawtelle - November 15, 2018 at 04:50 PM

AM

“ Kind, loving, beautiful, smart, and SO much fun. Irene had a vibrancy that cannot be matched. She was not only an amazing mother, but she was the most loyal and loving friend. I will miss her deeply.

Annie Martin - November 15, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Miss Irene A. Coakley.



November 15, 2018 at 11:15 AM

SM

“ *A life long friend. My heart is broken. She was truly a special person, and I will miss her always.
My deepest love and condolences to her family, who were the center of her world.*

Sharon Russo Martin - November 15, 2018 at 09:47 AM