



Marlene Elizabeth (Groetz) Lester

February 24, 1933 - July 11, 2020

Marlene Elizabeth (Groetz) Lester passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Daniel Lester, her sons Michael (Gregory Arencibia), Christopher (Jenny) and Thomas (Louise) and her grandson Steven. Born in Amesbury, MA on February 24, 1933, she had two sisters, Pauline Woodward and Winifred Ballard.

Marlene graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1953. She worked in Boston, San Francisco, and Lakeland before settling on the Suncoast. Her career at Venice Community Hospital began in 1971, and she rose to manage a 45-bed floor before retiring in 1994. She studied nights to earn a Bachelor of Science in Management from Nova University in 1987. She left medicine to help with administration at Dan's construction company, Southeastern Communication Service, Inc.

Marlene was active at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church where she helped deliver groceries to migrant families. She enjoyed ballroom dancing, world travel, aerobics, and lunches with her dear friends, the "Gabby Girls".

A mass will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM and she will be laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Doctors Without Borders, USA.

Previous Events

Mass

JUL **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
425 S. Tamiami Trail
Osprey, FL 34229

Tribute Wall

TT

“ *The Scotton Family of New Hampshire and Texas purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Marlene Elizabeth (Groetz) Lester.*



The Scotton Family of New Hampshire and Texas - July 20, 2020 at 06:49 PM

RS

“ *Margo and I extend our sincere condolences to the Lester family. Marlene was a gentle soul who will be missed by all who were blessed to know her.*

Ran Sweeney

Ran Sweeney - July 20, 2020 at 12:27 PM

DG

“ *Marlene was such a kind and loving soul and I remember her wonderful energy every-time I saw her which I tried to do once a year. When I first met Marlene in the 80's while working for Dan, she and Dan took me for dinner for my birthday. I remember her amazing interest when first meeting me but mostly my memory goes to her sitting next to Dan at dinner and holding his hand. Seeing such love in action was truly a blessing for me to see. I have loved her since as well as Dan over the past 30 some years. That love extended to her family of three boys, the hospital she worked at, and the support she gave Dan all these past years. She is resting in the hands of God and welcomed by those who have gone before her. I will truly miss her.*

David Gregory - July 15, 2020 at 07:01 AM

ML

Thanks, my friend, for the fond memory!

Michael Lester - July 18, 2020 at 08:14 AM

DG

“ David Gregory purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Marlene Elizabeth (Groetz) Lester.



David Gregory - July 15, 2020 at 06:50 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Lester - July 15, 2020 at 05:55 AM

GB

“ We have known Marlene and her husband, Dan, for about 12 years. They were instrumental in helping us as we became "snowbirds". At all times they were helpful and always friendly. We enjoyed their company and wisdom. Marlene was always gracious and enjoyable. We will miss her and our winter home will be lonely without her.

Gary & Cathy Backlund2

Gary & Cathy Backlund - July 14, 2020 at 09:04 AM

ML

Hi you two & thanks for your sweet note! Be well...

Michael Lester - July 18, 2020 at 08:11 AM

BT

“*Marlene (Molly) is a dear MGH classmate of mine. We met as first year students when we were assigned seats alphabetically in the classrooms. "G" (Groetz) sat beside "H" (Hubley). Our friendship lasted through three years of school and another year as roommates on Beacon Hill (Boston). Every morning she rose early to attend Mass before classes or work in the hospital. She was beautiful of mind and body - straight arrow, independent, very intelligent and reliable.*

I have fond memories of a visit to her parents' NH summer home for a week during a nursing school vacation. Her beloved grandfather cooked and cleaned for us so we could enjoy our leisure in the woods. It was a gift of love from him to his granddaughter.

Her adventuresome decision to move to CA and meet Dan Lester brought an end to our shared nursing time together. We continued to correspond during the remaining 56 years. Her friendship is an everlasting gift.

You have earned your peace, Molly

Beth Hubley Thomson

Beth Hubley Thomson - July 13, 2020 at 11:05 PM

ML

Thanks so much for sharing this lovely memory!

Michael Lester - July 18, 2020 at 08:06 AM