



Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz

March 22, 1939 - July 21, 2020

Gretchen Joy (Livingston) Lown Gerwitz passed away on July 21, 2020, after battling a lung infection. Born March 22, 1939 in Niagara Falls, NY, she and her family moved to the Charlotte area in 1981. A retired dental hygienist, Gretchen's world revolved around her family, who loved her dearly. Known as Grammy and Mimi to her grandchildren, she loved "making memories" with them, whether it be through attending sporting events and school functions, baking cookies or going to the movies. She also loved to travel; was an exercise enthusiast at MFAC, attending daily where she cultivated many friendships; an avid gardener and nature lover; and a fantastic cook. She sewed for her girls from the time they were little and, in recent years, became a talented quilter. The majority of her family has at least one of her creations.

Gretchen is survived by her husband of 21 years, Lanny; brother Richard Livingston; daughters Kim (Scott) Cassell; Lisa (Bobby) Anderson, granddaughters Paige and Carley; Robin Helms (Jimmy) Clontz, grandsons Quinton, Gavin, Sheldon Helms, Brooks and Jacob Clontz; Jennifer Gillman, granddaughters Chloe and Riley. Stepchildren Kim (Mark) Munto, granddaughters Jennifer (Josiah) Curtis (great-grandchildren Harper and Blaine), Abigail (Scott) Wilson, Kate (Stephen) Franceschell and Erin (Travis) Sanor; Karl (Leslie) Gerwitz, grandsons Harris and Carter; Kelly (Lamar) Shaw, grandson Conner Lowrance; granddaughter Amanda Mercil (great-granddaughter Adalyn) and grandson Brandon Gerwitz. She was preceded in death by stepson Kevin Gerwitz.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday, July 31, at Heritage Funeral and Cremation Services, 4431 Old Monroe Rd., Indian Trail, NC 28079 with a gathering of family and friends to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; Susan G. Komen Foundation 2316 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 or the American Lung Association 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150 Chicago, IL 60601.

Events

JUL **Celebration of life** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

31

Heritage Funeral Home - Indian Trail Chapel

4431 Old Monroe Road, Indian Trail, NC, US, 28079

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Heritage Funeral and Cremation Services - July 31 at 02:38 PM



“ Condolences from Sharon and Tom Hughes, Temple Tx

THOMAS L. HUGHES - July 31 at 05:52 PM



“ This was a beautiful service for Gretchen. Thank you for sharing as we were not able to attend. Sincerely, George and Sharon Kleinmann.

Sharon Kleinmann - July 31 at 06:48 PM



“ Thank you for sharing. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Dennis and Barbara Mohr

Dennis J Mohr - July 31 at 09:25 PM



“ Never easy to lose someone you love My prayers for Gretchen,you and all your family.Thinking of you.Know how you feel,it's almost 2 yrs since Dick is gone . Not a day or minute goes by That I don't think of him and remember the good times.One day at a time is all we can do.My prayers go out to all of you.May she rest in peace

Diane Uhteg - August 30 at 01:46 PM



“ My husband, Jim Livingston, I, and our children are lucky enough to have many good memories of Aunt Gretchen. Jim remembers her as being one of the most beautiful women he knew growing up. Her beauty was not only physical; she had the most beautiful spirit, a smile that lit up the room and a contagious laugh. I first met Gretchen via cards she wrote to us after we sent birth announcements for our first child, Chloe Marie. Aunt Gretchen was quick to get a beautiful afghan in the mail for her. I'll always remember the first time she called, we chatted like old friends. When Blake was born, he too got a beautiful handmade afghan from his Great-Aunt Gretchen!

Gretchen sent birthday cards to each of us and anniversary cards to Jim and I every year. She was so good at getting them to us on the exact day if not a day early. Even in all her travels, she would take cards along to mail to her loved ones so that they

would receive them at just the right time. I witnessed this when traveling with her as well as when we were lucky enough to have her visit us on numerous occasions. We had a very nice visit with all her girls and their kids at their home in 2007 when we visited North Carolina. On this visit they escorted us to Myrtle Beach, SC where they let us enjoy their time share on the ocean with them! We had many good times that trip as well as when we met up with them in Florida in 2013. There we also were lucky enough to enjoy their wonderful time shares and make many more memories. Always so accommodating, Aunt Gretchen and Uncle Lanny went above and beyond to make sure we were comfortable.

We were always included in her end of year/holiday newsletters. She was so good at sharing her experiences of the year. In addition, I was very lucky to have her reach out to me to keep her somewhat updated on the goings on in North Idaho. Her brother Richard Sr. (Pops) lives around here too, but has a hard time with phones and doesn't email, so we relayed messages back and forth. Aunt Gret would inform us of all the activities with their children and grandchildren. She was so proud of all of her family and shared experiences of going to the grandkids games, making Christmas cookies, and spending time together. She made me feel as if I know them all, at least a bit. She kept me updated on her flowers, vegetables, chickens, and fish pond. She even mailed me daffodil bulbs which bloom every spring reminding me of her generosity and beauty. She inspired me by all she did and all the lives she touched by doing it all. I will miss her and her letters so much.

Aunt Gretchen treated my kids as if they were her own grandchildren and always wanted to know how they were doing and what their interests and cloth sizes were so that she could formulate just the right gift to send them. Even though, often times, I didn't have big ideas to share with her, she always did a wonderful job of picking items that they loved! Chloe and Blake are both lucky enough to have one of her handmade quilts crafted just for them for their 14th birthdays, gifts they will continue to treasure.

Even when visiting us in Idaho they always went out of their way to help out and do everything they could for us. We were able to show them many of our local attractions. They were up for any adventure. Her final visit in 2019 for Chloe's graduation means so much. Every day spent with them was enjoyable. While becoming somewhat of parent figures to both Jim and I, in many ways

Millie Livingston - August 15 at 04:58 PM



“Gretchen and Lanny were like our best friends, easy to talk to, wanting to know about us, our priorities, hopes, and dreams. And they shared some of theirs with us!

I could go on and on about how deeply Aunt Gretchen touched my world. I have only fond memories and good things to say about this wonderful woman. I know she was loved by so many who will also miss her immensely. Until we meet again Aunt Gretchen, we love you and we always will.

Jim, Millie, Chloe, and Blake Livingston

Millie Livingston - August 15 at 05:00 PM



“ Our LARGE blended family appreciates your kind expressions of sympathy. - Lanny

Lanny Gerwitz - August 05 at 09:53 AM



“ Gretchen was a strong woman, mother, grandmother, wife and friend. You always could talk to her about anything and always gave her honest opinion. She was greatly loved and will be remembered by many. I will always have great respect for her and the family. I really do not know if she knew my first name but god bless her in her final resting place.

Love Carp

Michael Carpenter - July 31 at 06:58 PM



“ Very nice memorial of Gretchen and her lovely family. Will forever remember her Clams Casino and family gatherings which we were welcomed at. Thoughts and prayers to the family on the loss of a lovely lady. Barbara Carpenter

Barbara Carpenter - July 31 at 06:47 PM



“ Becky Platter lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz



Becky Platter - July 31 at 06:33 PM



“ Sending love, prayers and sympathy to all of Gretchen's friends and family. We have never met a more pleasant and happier soul. She will be greatly missed by so many. With Sympathy, The Maxson Family

Cathleen Maxson - July 31 at 04:55 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 31 at 08:11 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 31 at 07:22 AM



“ Rob and Charlene Kelly purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



Rob and Charlene Kelly - July 30 at 01:20 PM



“ Jen, Sending love and prayers to your entire family. I've loved hearing the stories about your mother. Please continue to share these sweet memories and allow them to keep you smiling in her memory throughout the years to come. Love you girl.
Amber Myers

Amber Myers - July 29 at 11:23 AM



“ Alicia, Jackie, Bobby, David, Jenny, Meganne purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.





Alicia, Jackie, Bobby, David, Jenny, Meganne - July 29 at 09:20 AM



“ Jim and Judie Baker purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



Jim and Judie Baker - July 28 at 12:56 PM



“ Lanny, I am sending you and your entire family all love and prayers of deep sympathy. I so cherish the times we were together while I lived in Charlotte and I will never forget the kind and generousness of heart you and Gretchen extended by opening your home to George as we transitioned to Charlotte. You were always there to lend a helping hand! We enjoyed your company and I have so many great memories, dinner parties, and our trip to the Outer Banks! I pray God's comfort will envelop you during this time of sorrow. Much love,
Janice Neyer

Janice Neyer - July 28 at 12:17 PM



“ My heart goes out to you all, your Mom was a very special lady who lived life to the fullest. My sincerest condolences. Hugs with lots of love, Mary Ellen Frizzell

Mary-Ellen Frizzell - July 27 at 09:34 PM



“ Sending my Condolences to Gretchen's husband and family. I attended the Eastman School for Dental Hygienists in Rochester, NY with Her. She was such a nice person, So Sorry. Joyce Tellier Marston

Joyce Tellier Leenhouts-Marston - July 27 at 08:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kathy Hess - July 27 at 01:10 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 27 at 11:20 AM



“ Kelly, sorry for your family's loss. Gretchen sounds like a wonderful person to know. Praying that you cling to the memories and that they keep you smiling.

Kim Greene

Kim - July 27 at 09:15 AM



“ Kelly, So sorry for your loss. Praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time for you and the entire family.

Lucy Tkachuk

Lucy Tkachuk - July 27 at 07:20 AM



“ Kelly - I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your stepmother. My thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family.

Malinda Hunt



“ To her loving husband, family and friends. Our deepest love and prayers are with you at this time. She was a beautiful and wonderful woman. She will be missed by all. Hope in due time the pain in your heart will mended.

With our deepest love to all of you.
Sondra & John Hoke

SondraHoke - July 26 at 08:11 PM



“ MY LOVE AND PRAYERS TO YOU AND FAMILY< DELORES TARONI-KOLUPSKI.

delores taroni-kolupski - July 26 at 05:23 PM



“ Gretchen and I have been close friends since the mid- 1960's . She was my role model in so many areas. We have shared laughter and tears, sewing tips and recipes, survived all of life's ups & downs. She was always there for me with wise advice and comforting words. We have leaned on each other and loved each other through so many happy and so many sad times. One of my dearest memories will be our time together in Sedona 5 years ago. In her memory I will plant some perennials flowers in my garden and would urge her other gardening friend to do likewise. Every spring when they bloom, I will be reminded of my wonderful friend. My husband Thomas and I send our deepest sympathy to Lanny and family.....Judy Fleckenstein

Judith Fleckenstein - July 25 at 08:21 PM



“ Thank you, Judy! My sisters and I have so many great memories of you and your family too. We miss Mom so much already.

Kim Liwn Cassell - July 26 at 09:17 PM



“ Below picture is the Panama Canal Cruise we enjoyed so much.

JOAN - July 27 at 04:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album





JOAN MOSS - July 25 at 04:44 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 25 at 11:07 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



angela licata - July 25 at 09:50 AM



“ Angela Licata lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz



angela licata - July 25 at 09:48 AM



“ Gretchen was truly one of a kind. She was so family oriented, sharing her many gifts and talents with them. She was such a good friend to me and I will miss her caring friendship.



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 24 at 08:58 PM



“ Terri Hood lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz



Terri Hood - July 24 at 08:33 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz.



July 24 at 08:28 PM



“ Dennis J Mohr lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz





“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jack & Jan Ryan - July 24 at 06:37 PM



“ SHIRLEY MARSH lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz



SHIRLEY MARSH - July 24 at 05:43 PM



“ I exercised beside this beautiful woman so many times! Gretchen was the happiest and fun person to ever have beside of me. She was an inspiration to all with her beautiful smile and positive spirit! I will miss seeing her smiling face!!!! Gretchen will be so missed!!!! Prayers to her family!!

Kathy - July 24 at 05:16 PM



“ The Layfields lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz



The Layfields - July 24 at 05:09 PM



“ Gretchen, you will be missed greatly by so many people. Your presence was always known by your kindness, smile and just YOU. The daffodil bulbs you dug up for me, the mask you sent me so I could learn to make one. You were always a pleasure to be around. Heaven has really gained a special person.
This COVID sucks, Gretchen. You left us too soon.
We all love you. RIP. Lanny, you picked the best! God Bless. Pauline Cassell



Pauline Cassell - July 24 at 04:36 PM



“ So very sorry to hear this news. I was one of her "exercise buddies" and always enjoyed being with her there and sometimes meet for coffee. She will be greatly missed. Deepest sympathy to all her family!

Suzanne Griffin - July 24 at 03:11 PM



“ Such a wonderful woman who I have so shared many good times since she married my brother. Trips and visits always a fun time. Going to miss these times but we all have wonderful memories of Gretchen RIP you will be missed by all who knew you

SHIRLEY MARSH - July 24 at 02:26 PM



“ I have so MANY "good" memories of Gretchen since my brother brought her in to our family, family get togethers, traveling to many different areas with them, cruising to so many places and just enjoying each others company. RIP Gretchen you are deeply missed.
Joan

JOAN MOSS - July 24 at 12:56 PM



“ JOAN MOSS lit a candle in memory of Gretchen Livingston Gerwitz





JOAN MOSS - July 24 at 12:44 PM



“ Gretchen will be missed. You were a gracious hostess and we have many memories from our visits. We made even more memories on the Alaskan Cruise. We loved you and will not forget you. Lanny, we send our condolences to you and the families. Please keep in touch.
Jan and Woody

Jan Woodworth - July 24 at 05:53 PM



“ Gretchen and I were in Dental Hygiene school together. I was glad to see her at the last reunion I attended. She was such a nice person. I'm sorry for your loss.

Kay Quirk - July 26 at 03:23 PM