



Mary Louise "Mollie" Provasnik

March 4, 1926 - September 7, 2020

Mary Louise "Mollie" McDonald Provasnik, formerly of New Hartford, died in her sleep on September 7, 2020, in McLean, VA.

Born on March 4, 1926, in Calcutta, India, Mollie was the daughter of Margaret and Thomas McDonald, both of Utica but living in India where Thomas was Manager of the India Division of the Standard Vacuum Oil Co. (which became Exxon). Mollie attended schools in India (Loreto Convent in Darjeeling and schools in Calcutta) and in NY (at Our Lady of Lourdes, Utica, and Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart in Albany, NY). She graduated from New Hartford High School; earned a BA at Mount Holyoke College and master's degrees from Catholic University of America and the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1951 Mollie joined the Foreign Service and worked at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City for almost a decade, developing a love for Mexico that lasted her whole life. She joined the United States Information Service in 1962 and was posted to Montevideo as Director of the USIS libraries in Uruguay, Bolivia, and Paraguay. There she met Albert J. Provasnik, of Pittsburgh, PA who worked in the international division of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

She and Al were married at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington D.C. during the Blizzard of '66. Soon after, they moved to Manila, Philippines, where Al was posted as a Revenue Service Officer. Their son, Stephen, was born there.

In 1973 they returned to the States and moved to New Hartford in 1975, where she lived until 2014 when she moved to the Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean, VA. However, Mollie never lost her wanderlust, her spirit of adventure, or her compassion for people coming to the US from other countries.

While living in New Hartford, Mollie was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Church in New Hartford, the Utica Curling Club, the American Association of University

Women, and myriad volunteer and church groups. For many years, she organized bus trips to NYC for local residents to see Broadway shows or special exhibits at the Met. She founded the town's newspaper The Town Crier with Jo Spencer, which they co-wrote and operated for about a decade until they sold it to PJ Green in the late 1990s. In 2001, she and Al were inducted into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Surviving Mollie are her son, Stephen, and his wife, Kristi, of Arlington, VA; and two granddaughters, Alexandra and Theresa Provasnik. She was predeceased by her husband, Al, and her sister, Margot.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call on Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. at McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors, 470 French Rd., Utica. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church. Interment will be in St. Agnes Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider The Kelberman Center at www.kelbermancenter.org/donate/ (Attention: Community Development) or the St. John the Evangelist Church, 66 Oxford Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413.

Cemetery

Events

St. Agnes Cemetery

Arthur Street

Utica, NY,

SEP

14

Visitation

04:00PM - 06:00PM

McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors
470 French Road, Utica, NY, US, 13502

SEP

15

Mass of Christian Burial

10:30AM

St. John the Evangelist

66 Oxford Road, New Hartford, NY, US, 13413

Comments



“ I am so saddened at just now finding out about the passing of Molly. She was always so inspirational when I would see her at St John's Church, always asking about my daughter Kelly and how she was doing. She was a mountain of a Christian Catholic woman, whose footprints will be very difficult to follow. Always cheerful, giving and ready to lend a hand. My heart goes out to you Steven and your family for your loss and heaven's gain. She will be in my prayers and all of you also.

Cathy Donnell Conklin - September 20 at 01:00 PM



“ as an employee at preswick glen i had the opportunity to know molly very well, what an exceptional woman she was. she always greeted me with an hello with her smile, molly may you rest in peace.

sal barbero - September 15 at 05:41 AM



“ Dear Stephen- Molly was a lovely, thoughtful woman. I have very fond memories of her and your grandmother. My thoughts & prayers are with you. Geri Sultenfuss

Geri Sultenfuss - September 14 at 06:20 PM



“ It was a joy to hear and document on DVD the wonderful life story and adventures of Mollie. She had a fascinating life and I am so glad she chose to document it for her son and family. I consider myself fortunate to have known this amazing woman.

Eileen Kent

Stories of a Lifetime

Former Owner/ Director

Eileen Kent - September 13 at 03:41 PM



“ Dear Stephen, My sister Amy informed our whole family about the loss of cousin Molly. I am so sorry for you. She was one of a kind - we all recognized her worldly experience. I enjoyed spending time with her at Preswick Glen and got closer to her during that period.

I have to share with you that my parents treasured living across the street from her while they lived in their cottage at Preswick. My mother Kate lives in a nursing home now but a day did not go by when I would check in on my mom and and would repeat the same sentiment.

Kate's memory was not so deteriorated during her life in the cottage. Whether it was me checking in on Mom or anyone else visiting - she would point out the bracelet from her sister Peggy on her arm with pride - then she would say "and my cousin Molly lives right there (as she would point out her kitchen window)." This is something my mom would say over and over. -Like a mantra.

Your mom residing there at this period in my mother and father's life brought much comfort and joy to them. Cousin Molly was a gift. She will be remembered with fondness and reverence forever.

Meg Cardamone

Meg Cardamone - September 13 at 01:30 PM



“ Reciban nuestro sincero pésame. Siempre recordamos a tus papás con mucho cariño. Era un gusto cuando venían a Morelia. Dejan un lindo recuerdo en nuestros corazones. Abrazos para ustedes y sus hijas con mucho cariño. Joel, Isabel y familia.

Isabel Oteiza Figaredo - September 13 at 01:39 AM



“ Esteban y familia, les enviamos un gran abrazo, Mollie ya duerme el sueño de los justos. Descanse en Paz. Francisco Oteiza Figaredo y familia.

Francisco Oteiza - September 13 at 01:49 AM



“ I would like to extend my sincerest sympathies to all those who loved and will miss Mollie. As the former secretary at St Johns, I got to know, love and respect this dear woman with the can-do attitude and great strength of character. I could tell whenever Mollie walked in to the rectory without having to look up, just by the way the door opened. She was one who I held dear. We were all quite sad when she moved away from us to Virginia, but kept her close in our hearts. Rest in peace, Mollie. I'm sure Al is showing you all the great rooms of your heavenly abode and the Blessed Mother, I'm sure, greeted you with open arms.
Irene Scalise

Irene S. Scalise - September 10 at 09:55 AM



“ Stephen,
My condolences on the loss of your mother.
I remember when she and Mrs Spencer started the Town Crier! When I was young and living with my parents, I recall day dreaming during Sunday mass . I always noted an air of sophistication about her. Reading about her life, explains why she

seems so worldly in our little town. I always admired the way she carries herself. My wishes for peace to you and your family during this time of mourning.

Michele Bonstes LaSalle - September 09 at 07:43 PM



“ Dear Stephen,

I was sorry to learn of your mother's passing, and have many wonderful memories of her at St. John's. I was always astonished by her service to others and her honest humility. She loved you very much, and every time we met she checked on how you were doing in school! I used to tell her that you had her sense of humor. Her response was, "Well Sister, how can I argue with that?" (followed by a big smile). Stephen, prayers for you and your family! May all your good memories bring you some comfort at this time.

Love and prayers,

Sister Robert Rita

Sister Robert Rita C.S.J. - September 09 at 11:05 PM



“ Steve, sorry to learn of Mollie's passing. She was a great lady! Fondly remember her from Sunday mass at St. John's, New Hartford. She always reminded me that we were related.

She and Al lived a wonder lives. May she RIP. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

JEROME DONOVAN - September 10 at 10:20 AM



“ Siento mucho que Mollie haya muerto pero pienso que mi mamá está feliz con ella en el cielo. Un beso a todos Guille Oteiza Figaredo.

guileoteizade - September 13 at 01:48 AM