



Mary E. Merkle

November 6, 1951 - September 7, 2023

Mary E. Merkle, age 71 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, September 7, 2023, at HSHS St. Elizabeth Hospital in O'Fallon, IL.

She was born on Tuesday, November 6, 1951, in Alton, IL, the daughter of Oscar and Mary (nee Gillespey) Thornton.

On Wednesday, August 27, 1997, she married Laverne A. Merkle at Winnett, Montana, who survives.

She was a member of Welsh Corgi Dog Club.

She was born at St. Joseph Hospital, Alton, IL and graduated from Alton High School in 1969. She attended a trade school in Kansas City for information technology "IT". She worked for Coca Cola, St. Louis, for 3 years; Cargill; Airco; Conagra; Greenville Springs; B-Line in Highland for 10 plus years and retired from G & S Freight, Highland. She enjoyed cross stitch; writing poems, poetry and stories; collected thimbles and unicorns; St. Louis Cardinal Baseball fan and had been in a bowling league in Highland.

Survivors include:

Husband - Laverne A. "Bernie" Merkle, Highland, IL

Step Son - Bryan A. (Janae L.) Merkle, Highland, IL

Grandchild - Carissa R. Merkle, Highland, IL
Grandchild - Haley A. Merkle, Highland, IL
Sister - Virginia L. "Gin" Stewart, Reeseville, WI.

She was preceded in death by:

Father - Oscar H. Thornton

Mother - Mary A. Thornton (nee Gillespey)

Brother - Donald E. Thornton - Infant.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Friday, September 15, 2023, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Memorial Service will be at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 15, 2023, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL, with Rev. William E. Kapp, Pastor, Evangelical United Church of Christ, Highland, IL, officiating.

Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Madison County Humane Society - Highland.

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Thanks to our Alton High Class of 1969 group I had the opportunity to meet Mary (our class was so large we didn't know everyone!) and have enjoyed getting to know her over the years. Even though her health dealt her many challenges she always remained upbeat and loved getting together with us when she could. I'll miss her, we chatted back and forth on Facebook. Had planned on being there today, but won't be able to come. My prayers are with all of you, Mary was very special.

Marie Reyne - September 15, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary E. Merkle.



September 11, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary E. Merkle.

September 11, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary E. Merkle.



September 10, 2023 at 10:46 PM

CK

“ *I am so sorry to see this. Mary was the sweetest person. She loved her corgis. I will always have fond memories of Mary's frequent visits to my pet business in Maryville. My condolences to her family. Heaven gained a very nice angel.*

Cynthia Kuschel - September 09, 2023 at 09:19 PM