



Christine Ann VanEynde

January 21, 1948 - December 31, 2017

NORWAY- Christine VanEynde age 69 of Norway, died Sunday, December 31, 2017 at her home in Norway.

She was born January 21, 1948 in Norway, the daughter of Anna Mae (Decker) Sturm-Buys and the late Leo A. Sturm and was a lifelong resident of Norway.

Chris married Donald VanEynde on August 3, 1968 in St. Mary's Church in Norway.

She worked for the Norway-Vulcan School for over 30 years and retired as Head Cook in 2015. Chris was a published author of "Life is uncertain: Eat Dessert First" cookbook, she enjoyed acting in the local theater group, she was always there to lend a hand or make food for any occasion, had her regular recipes article in the Norway Current and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Chris is survived by her husband of 49 years Donald; their children Laura (Craig) Gronda of Pinckney, Marc VanEynde of Norway, Chad (April) VanEynde of Norway and Luke VanEynde of Madison, WI; grandchildren Brett, Connor, Fynn, Carly, Claire, Chloe, Caynan, Lylah, Bodhi and a soon Baby VanEynde; mother Anna Mae Sturm-Buys and Step-father Frank Buys

of Norway; brothers Leo “Bob” (Jill) Sturm of Norway, Louis (Beth) Sturm of Vulcan and Larry Sturm of Norway; sister Mary Harrison of Cave Junction, OR; sister-in-law Rose (Bill) Panek of Florence; many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 5 from 11-2 p.m. at St. Barbara’s Church in Vulcan.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 2 p.m. at St. Barbara’s Church with Fr. Timothy Ekaitis presiding.

Family request memorial contributions may be made in Christine’s name to a scholarship fund that will be set up for culinary and food service students.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Barbara's Church
159 Mission Street
Vulcan, MI 49892

Memorial Mass

JAN 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Barbara's Church
159 Mission Street
Vulcan, MI 49892

Tribute Wall

LV

“ Dear whoever reads this,

I was 7 years old when my grandmother, Christine VanEynde, passed away. I remember the day my dad had told me she was gone like it was yesterday. I remember crying and crying and crying. I had cried so much that day that I couldn't even shed a tear at her funeral.

I miss her everyday and I know that she is watching over me from heaven. She's probably up there baking and chatting it up with God. She may not be with me physically anymore but I know she will always be with me in spirit.

I'm almost 15 now. I just finished my freshman year of high school and I have a job now. I also started becoming more close with God in the past year and I think it's really helped me with my anxiety and depression. I've been really good recently and i've been staying positive.

I try to be as positive as Grandma was. She was always making people smile, I really loved that about her.

I'm a sophomore now, or at least I will be once school starts again in fall. I wish she was still here. I miss her so much, and I wish she was here to see how much I've grown and matured. And I know, in spirit she is here, but I still wish she was here physically.

P.S. Try to stay positive and keep going, even when things are bad and you feel like giving up.

And don't forget to Eat Dessert First!

Written with love, Lylah Moon VanEynde

LYLAH MOON VANEYNDE - June 13, 2025 at 12:33 AM

MM

“ Life is bright, beautiful peaks and low, dark valleys. Chris was always on the tallest peak of the highest mountain. Wind, rain, or snow - that woman would keep the flag steady with a giant smile on her face. I will miss turning the corner into her kitchen, seeing Chris cooking up something delicious while sweet aromas filled the air. It's sad to lose such an incredible person, but she will live on through everyone she knew. We all learned a lot from her and we'll keep her spirit strong through those lessons. I'll be praying for Don, family, extended family, and friends. Peace to all.

Mary Merritt - January 13, 2018 at 04:45 PM

AK

“ I can still hear her beautiful laugh...words cannot express the magnitude of her loss. She left an incredible legacy and one that makes each of us a better person. Our hearts and prayers are with Don, extended family and friends. Sending love.

Anne Kingma - January 07, 2018 at 06:25 PM

DR

“ Christine made people happy who loved her; she did the same for folks she never knew. Her recipes were considered a highlight of *The Norway Current* back in the day when I was in charge of the publication. My mother in Maine got the newspaper because I was the publisher; she clipped every single recipe for her scrapbook because Virginia thought Christine's ideas were fabulous. Her culinary skills and laughter will be missed.

Doni-Mae B. Rauch - January 06, 2018 at 01:04 AM

LG

“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your whole family Laura. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Jim and Lauri Gustafson*

Lauri Gustafson - January 05, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 04, 2018 at 07:00 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 04, 2018 at 03:34 PM

MM

“ *Don, my deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of your dear wife Chris. Our family will always remember the wonderful meal Chris brought over for us when you finished your work at our Cottage. And her salsa recipe she shared with us was the best! May God bless you and your family.*

Maureen Malcolm - January 04, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JM

“ George and I were saddened to hear of Chris' passing. We are too far away to get back to Norway for her funeral but will pause to say a prayer for her and all her family during the services. She was loved.

Johna McLaughlin - January 04, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JS

“ Joanne and Pat Shallow purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.



Joanne and Pat Shallow - January 04, 2018 at 11:59 AM

EF

“ My heart is breaking. Can't even begin to say how much I loved her, how much she meant to me and all of my family, how greatly she will be missed.
One very special, generous and kind, funny, amazingly happy woman whose memory I will always treasure.

Ellen Fetu - January 04, 2018 at 07:40 AM

GT

“ I am so saddened to hear of the loss of our dear Chris. My heart goes out to Birdie and all of the kids and grandkids that loved her so dearly. She was really "our" Chris, since she meant so much to so many of us. Chris sat in front of me for 7 years through middle school and high school. You see, she was Sturm, and I was Tanguay so I was right behind her the whole way. You can only imagine the hysterical laughing that went on before, during and after our many pranks. She was loyal, funny, caring and always ready to help others. She was the Leader-de-facto of our 1966 Norway High School graduating class, and I am at a loss how we will ever even come close to making a fun filled reunion without her guidance. She will surely be missed but never forgotten. My husband Bruce fondly remembers her signing "I've got you babe" with her during our karaoke at the reunion, which by the way I have on my phone.

Sending much love to her family,

Gwen Tanguay XO

Gwen Tanguay - January 03, 2018 at 09:46 PM

PK

“ May God bless all of the family in this time of sorrow.
On Saturday, Lisa(Temple), my daughter, baked a cake from the original A& P spice cake recipe. She looked at me and said , " Well Chris, we're eating dessert first." I Said,"She's got the right of it, life is too short." We really enjoyed it on an empty stomach with a cup of coffee.
Chris was a dear friend, that I lost track of after living in TX for 30+ years, but have talked to her and Bird several times since returning.. I remember sitting in the kitchen with her and laughing ourselves silly many times. What wit and humor she had. Something was always cooking. How she loved life and did live it to the fullest! When she asked me to stay with Mark, after his surgery in Green Bay, so she could attend a wedding, I said, "Yes, of course". That's what friends do.
God took her home, but she is as the rose, that climbs a garden wall, she's just on the otherside waiting. Maybe God's garden just needed more sunshine.
With love, Patsy(Temple) Kuhl

Patricia Kuhl - January 03, 2018 at 09:17 PM

CA

“ Cindy Arnold lit a candle in memory of Christine Ann VanEynde



Cindy Arnold - January 03, 2018 at 08:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 03, 2018 at 08:22 PM



“ *Goodbye to an amazing woman. You will be greatly missed. You made the world a much better place.*

Deb and Chuck Decker - January 03, 2018 at 07:26 PM



“ *Patsy, Lisa, and Patrick purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



Patsy, Lisa, and Patrick - January 03, 2018 at 07:25 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 03, 2018 at 07:16 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 03, 2018 at 07:11 PM



“ *Such fond memories of her delicious food and her smile when I would stay during the summertime! What a great mom she was! So very sorry for all of you...Wish I could give you all a hug... You are in my prayers!💕💕*



christine wilson - January 03, 2018 at 06:59 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Christine Ann VanEynde.*



January 03, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ *The world will be a darker place without Chris., but heaven will shine a little brighter. She was such a wonderful, loving person. Her family was everything . She loved without measure. I will miss her very much.*

sue mcadam - January 03, 2018 at 02:58 PM

JO

“ Joan lit a candle in memory of Christine Ann VanEynde



Joan - January 03, 2018 at 12:54 AM

MG

“ What an amazing person.. how she always made you feel completely welcome and put a smile on your face. Every single time! So many awesome memories! My heart goes out to all the family during this difficult time. God bless!

Mike Groeneveld - January 02, 2018 at 09:16 PM

KC

“ Don, Laura & Family, Mark & Family, Chad & Family and Luke & Family,

You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Please know that your Mom was such an inspiration and a positive influence on many many people including myself. Laura, I will never forget all the fun times we had spent at your house and your Mom always made it so enjoyable to be at your house and she offered us so much good advice and she had a positive attitude with her infectious smile. And on top of that she was an amazing cook some of the best meals I have ever had were at your house from your moms cooking!!! Hug to you all and Laura if you need anything I am here for you my dear friend always. Love you guys!!

*Love,
Karen (Rehn) & Craig Burkman, Ashley Burkman & Josh and Chloe*

Karen, Craig, Ashley, Josh, & Chloe - January 02, 2018 at 03:01 PM

MM

“ Goodbye to one I saw as a friend, caregiver, amazing cook, and an inspiration. A smile I'll forever remember and an attitude about life I'll forever treasure.

Mark Mortier

Mark Mortier - January 02, 2018 at 11:38 AM