



## Holly McCarthy-Biolo

September 23, 1953 - October 3, 2023

PUNTA GORDA, FL- Holly J. McCarthy-Biolo age 70, passed away as a result of injuries suffered in a tragic bicycle accident on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Fort Myers, FL with her family by her side.

She was born on September 23, 1953 in Norway, the daughter of the late Bill and Irene (Ray) McCarthy.

Holly graduated from Norway High School in 1972. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI in 1997.

Holly married James Mortier in 1971, and would remarry to Dan Flynn in 1986, before eventually she and Tony Biolo wed in 2012.

She was a Caregiver and Community Living Support Specialist for many years through Northpointe Behavioral Healthcare System, as well as a Substance Abuse Counselor through Community Substance Abuse, and Director at Big Brothers Big Sisters. She devoted herself to that public service, having felt it was a key ingredient toward achieving success in her life, as well as in a career considered to be one of the most challenging that our nation has to offer. Along with unparalleled patience, her innate ability to connect with every client by treating them with dignity and decency allowed her to

achieve this goal.

This was something that carried over into her personal life as well. She had a zest for life; a glow about her that drew a person in. She was fun loving, good natured, and simply a joy to be around. A love for arts and crafts natural to childhood carried on to her last day. A passion of constructing – among other things – sailboats, and original paintings on anything from canvas to driftwood, which told a story from each concept's inception to the last stroke of the brush. Incorporating, at times, her lifelong love for flowers and animals, at one point in time, would all be on display and merged its way into an antique store she once owned called, "Shabby Chic" in Paducah, KY.

Holidays and family get togethers, whether it be intimate for a televised sporting event, a reunion at Hamilton Lakes, or a formal wedding, were always something she cherished. She touched us all in these moments, verbally, or even with a look from her emerald-green eyes, which spoke volumes. She had a joy and admiration for music, particularly live bands – it was always evident in her body language.

While residing in Florida, strolling the beautiful beaches, collecting an array of seashells under the warm sun, was something that provided a sense of contentment. She also loved going out on boats with special Florida friends both gained and had, which produced experiences substantial in her life.

In recent years she looked forward to spending annual summer gatherings with high school female cohorts, aka "the outies" (a playful moniker more than an intentional social distinction), which affirmed their bond – through the best or worst of times – they always had each other. The eclectic blend of personalities included, Teresa McCarthy (sister), Joanne Costantino (cousin), Karin Richards, Loni Pietrantonio, and Nancy Carlson, a group deemed to be nothing short of invaluable to her.

As a proud organ donor, she was able to save the lives of two individuals, reaffirming her lifelong dedication to helping others. The Gulf Coast Medical Center staff and LifeLink of Southwest Florida personnel held a gracious and admirable Flag Ceremony and Honor Walk on her behalf.

Holly is survived by husband Tony; beloved sons Anthony (Jodi) Mortier of Iron Mountain, and Reid (Robin) Mortier of Sherman Oaks, CA; a treasured daughter Shainna (Matt) Szwet of Sobieski, WI; grandchildren Clark and Hadleigh Szwet – “her babies” who she adored beyond what words can articulate; brother Francis (Marianne) McCarthy of Hamilton Lakes, and their children Matt (April) McCarthy and Erin (Scott) Hoffman; sister Mary McCarthy-Bray of Norway, “with whom she also shared the rare gift of being her twin”, and her children RaeAnne (Kevin) Seat and Taylor McCarthy-Teasley; sister Teresa (Jon) McCarthy of Prior Lake, MN, and her children Megan (James) Rosati, Dan (Jane) DeJaeger and Sydnie (Rae) McCarthy; half-brother Mike McCarthy and stepmother Delores “Dee” McCarthy of Livonia.

She also leaves behind her in-laws Alex and Barb Biolo; sisters-in-law Amy Biolo and Mary Tonge, and her children Trevor and Greg; aunt in law Mary Hoffmann; step grandchildren Peyton, Kendall and Hailey; great nieces and nephews, Zach, Mac, Maggie, Mae, Jimmy, Lucy and Jaylynn, who she had great fondness for, as well as extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Irene, first husband James Mortier, as well as brother-in-law Brian Tonge, and many special aunts, uncles and cousins.

She will be missed tremendously, and forever loved and remembered.

Family will greet friends on Monday, October 23, from 9-11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Norway.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Monday, October 23 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Fr. Marty Flynn, officiating.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, July 20, at 12:30 p.m. at Norway Township Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

## Memorial Mass

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ Susan Tinti lit a candle in memory of Holly McCarthy-Biolo



Susan Tinti - October 21, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.



October 20, 2023 at 08:58 AM

KP

“ I worked with Holly at Northpointe for many years. We had many good times together and she will be sadly missed. She was a beautiful person inside and out. Say hi to the girls in heaven Holly and we will see you again my dear friend. Love you and will miss your beautiful smile

Kathy Patrick - October 20, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.



October 19, 2023 at 02:07 PM

JF

“ John F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.

John F. - October 19, 2023 at 07:53 AM

JF

“ John F. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.



John F. - October 19, 2023 at 07:53 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.



October 18, 2023 at 09:51 PM

LB

“ LuAnne and Jim Batti purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.



LuAnne and Jim Batti - October 18, 2023 at 04:15 PM

LB

“ *LuAnne and Jim Batti planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.*

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**LuAnne and Jim Batti** - October 18, 2023 at 04:15 PM

LB

“ *I want to express my deepest condolences to all of her family and friends. I can not imagine your grief at the loss of Holly. You have my prayers and sympathy. I remember her laugh and smile and have lots of memories from Norway High School. I would be there on Monday but have shoulder surgery Friday. Hugs to all. LuAnne (Baril) Batti*

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**LuAnne Batti** - October 18, 2023 at 04:07 PM

MG

“ *My only memory of Holly is as a beautiful baby girl with her twin sister, Mary, and big brother, Fran. I was a teenager working at Bonnie's Pasty shop, and the whole McCarthy family was like family to me. My prayers, sympathy, and love go to all the family and friends who will forever miss such a beautiful soul.*

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**Mary Jean Giesen-Smith** - October 18, 2023 at 02:23 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.*

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October 13, 2023 at 12:04 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Holly McCarthy-Biolo.*



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October 13, 2023 at 12:04 AM



“ *To the Family of Holly,*

*In the Love that surrounds you,  
May you find Strength;  
In the Memories you Cherish,  
May you find Peace.*



*God's Love and Blessings,  
The Parish Family of St. Mary's- Norway*

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**St Marys** - October 11, 2023 at 12:18 AM



*Holly was always a pleasure to see. Always so positive and kind.*

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**Lori Reynolds** - October 18, 2023 at 11:02 AM



“ *I am heartsick for your entire family. I am so sorry for your loss. Holly lived life with love and enthusiasm. My prayers and sympathy are with each of you.* 🥹💔🙏

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**Robelle Degenauer** - October 07, 2023 at 09:45 AM

MC

“ Dear cousins(Fran, Mary &Theresa), my heart breaks for all of you and Holly's family. Loss of one loved by so many is always hard but made even more difficult by the tragic circumstances that caused Holly's death 💔 . Sending prayers and hugs and will forever remember Holly as the beautiful and fun loving soul that she was.

Mary Pat Clarke - October 04, 2023 at 03:09 PM

SB

Family and Friends of Holly, so very sorry for your loss. She was such a fun loving person and joy to be around no to forget her beautiful smile.In school she was full of fun and in later years I worked with her at Northpointe and we had some real good times that only few could appreciate! My prayers and thoughts are with you all'

Susan (Supa) Burklund - October 05, 2023 at 01:21 PM

JC

I can't believe it's Holly's face I'm looking at on this website. A good majority of my childhood and teenage memories have Holly and the McCarthy family in them. We're cousins, and their house was a second home to me. I keep seeing her smiling face, hearing her laughter, remembering all the crazy things we did together, and the trouble we managed to get into. She was one of the easiest people to be around. She had a way of gushing over the little things, and always finding something to flatter you about. Our girlfriend group called her "Good-Hearted Hol." And she was. I feel a painful void in my life knowing she's gone, but can only imagine the void her husband Tony is feeling, along with her siblings, her kids and grandkids. My heart breaks for all of you. She'll be missed beyond words. I love ya, Hol 💔 Joanne, aka Goonie

JOANNE M COSTANTINO - October 09, 2023 at 09:27 PM

BM

*My husband Carl and I have known Holly and Tony for the past 5 years. We live in the same condo complex, Deep Creek Gardens in Florida. I was fortunate to get to know Holly a little better the past year. Holly was instrumental in getting some of us that are a little artistic together to start a monthly craft fair at our condo clubhouse. In fact, we were all getting our crafts ready for the first one of the season coming up on October 21st. Holly was always so excited about getting everything together for each show, as she wanted them to be perfect. She worked very hard to make sure that each one was a success. Holly always had a very positive attitude and a smiling face for everyone that she met. She will truly be missed by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tony and all of their families and friends.*

*Bonnie and Carl Meyers*

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**Bonnie R Meyers** - October 18, 2023 at 01:32 PM

RC

*I was very shocked and saddened when I heard of Holly's passing. Holly was a wonderful person, and the world is a poorer place without her. I remember the McCarthy girls, my sister, Irene and my mom hopping into the car for one of their shopping trips to the Big City of Green Bay. I think those trips made their summer. My condolences to Fran, Mary, and Theresa.*

*Richard Carlson*

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**Richard Carlson** - October 19, 2023 at 10:44 AM

AB

*To Fran, Mary, and Teresa*

*So sorry to hear of Holly's accidental passing. I still have fun memories of the time spent with your entire family back in high school. My sincere condolences to all of you and your families.*

*Al Baciak*

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**Al Baciak** - October 24, 2023 at 02:24 PM

MM

*Our hearts and prayers go out to all of Holly's family. What a shame such a good and beautiful person must leave us so soon. Back in our neighborhood and school days together she was like a cousin or sister as were all the McCarthy girls. I will never forget how fun she helped to make those times. Hearing about the many great deeds in her life only make perfect sense to me. God bless all her loved ones in this difficult time! Mike and Karen Milligan and all the Milligan family.*

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**Michael Milligan** - November 04, 2023 at 11:23 AM