



Mrs. Margaret (Jones) Abess

April 21, 1934 - February 25, 2014

Mrs. Margaret (Jones) Abess, age 79, passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with her loving family by her side.

Born in Whitesboro on April 21, 1934, Margaret was the daughter of the late Robert Henry and Gladys K. (Duesler) Jones. She attended Whitesboro High School. On July 16, 1955 she was joined in marriage to James "Jim" Abess with whom she shared a union centered around family. Together, they enjoyed gardening, fishing, and antiquing to find the right piece at the best price. They also respected each other's independence and interests.

During the years, Margaret was employed by Utica Knitting Mill, Lally Manufacturing, and Tucci's Laundromat. Her energetic work ethic was fueled by the cherished friendships she made at her workplaces. But Margaret felt that her most important job in life was to care for her family, and she did it well. A sincere and charitable soul, Margaret's sweet maternal nature enabled her to form unique and special bonds with each of her family members. She also had a hardy sense of humor, self-confidence, and the ability to take a joke and make others laugh with her "words and phrases". She participated annually in the NY Mills community garage sale as a vendor. She enjoyed word games that challenged her mind and was the luckiest card player who amazingly always beat the odds.

Margaret was most proud of instilling honorable values to her daughters and grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and

John Temple of Whitesboro. Always close to her heart was the memory of her daughter, Joanne O'Dell, who preceded her in death on April 22, 2010. She also leaves her grandchildren, Ron and Michelle O'Dell of Utica, Andy and Kim O'Dell of Lockport, Jamie and Tiffani Temple of Marcy, and Jodie Chapman of Whitesboro; and her great-grandchildren, Daniel and Stone; Andrew and Katie; Tanner and Sophia; Nicole, Zachary, and Connor. She always remembered her great-grandson, James, who passed before her, on April 11, 1999. In addition, she leaves her sister, Jane Williams of Yorkville; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws Douglas Fauteux of Chadwicks, and Fannie Duffany of Sandy Creek. She was predeceased by her brother, Emory Jones; her sister, Eileen Fauteux; and several in-laws.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Friday from 5:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Margaret's Sending Forth Blessing will be held on Friday evening at 7:00 immediately upon conclusion of visitation at the funeral home. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Margaret's honor to the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Foundation in appreciation of the wonderful care that she received; envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall

“ Before the end of the service last night I shared some words. I figured I'd put them on here for those friends and family that could not make it to the service...

On behalf of Aunt Jane, Aunt Bonnie, Ron, and myself, I wanted to thank you all for coming out tonight to remember a truly wonderful person. This truly is a testament to the kind of personage was and the kind of family she helped to build.

Ma was as kind and selfless if a person as their was. She could never do enough for you, and you always did too much for her. If you were in the presence of my grandmother, whether it was for a few minutes, a few hours, or a few years, she made it her priority to make sure you were taken of. Ask my friends, they would never leave the house hungry or thirsty. She was also the luckiest card player ever, but more on that later...

Although she was incredibly smart, she sacrificed school around the age of 16 to go to work. This is the kind of person she always was. She put everyone else's needs before her own. She helped raise the strong, independent woman that was my mother, Joanne. Then when Mom had 2 little ones to care for, Ma didn't hesitate to fill every roll needed in raising us while Mom worked full-time, sometimes with a second job. We would be nearly the husbands, fathers, and friends that we are without the wonderful care and stable upbringing she helped provide. She was the glue that kept our family together and, despite having the quietest voice of all of us, her opinion always seemed to be the most respected. I learned over the years that when I needed something from my grandfather, Ma would be the key person to persuade him to do it. When lived with them for a few years, I helped introduce them to new technology, cuz if I hadn't, they would still have a rotary phone and a console TV with no remote. They probably wouldn't even have a VCR, let alone DVD or Blu-Ray. These are changes I could have never instituted on my own, especially with my grandfather. Ma

would work hard to learn whatever new thing it was and, when he saw that she could do it on her own, he would HAVE TO start doing it too, so as to not be upstaged! Ma knew that about him, and helped me use that to bring their lives out of the Stone Age. In case I forget to bring it up, she was without question the luckiest card player EVER!

Ma made her primary purpose in life to create a wonderful family, and that's exactly what she did. From raising my mom to helping raise Ron and I, to everything she does for our kids, to make Bonnie and her family as welcome in our home as we were, to hosting Friday night card games with her sisters, and all the countless little things she made sure to do for everyone else, she put her heart and soul, love and affection into everything she did for her family. Cousins that have rarely had contact with her were brought to tears at the news of her passing. She left a mark on everyone that she was around, whether intentionally or not. What they'll especially remember about her though, was that she was the luckiest card player EVER...

One of the most special things about Ma was her sense of humor. She loved to take jabs at us almost as much as we did at her. She was also very good at making fun of herself. But where her true humor came from was her ability to say the most outrageous things out of the blue. This is where the fun comes in. Many of these Ma-isms are repeated regularly, almost without a thought. Many of these sudden comedic moments came while she was proving to us that she was, without a doubt, the luckiest card player ever!

Ma was an incredibly strong person. She didn't have the easiest life, but she made the most of every opportunity she had. She endured terrible losses, including her great-grandson James. She always seemed to rise above though and help the family move on from these tragedies. When my mom passed in 2010 though, and her sister Eileen just last year, you could see that the loss of family was starting to take its toll. She had accomplished so much with the family she helped create,

Andy O'Dell - March 01, 2014 at 11:27 AM

AN

and it was finally time for he to want something for herself. She wanted to move on and rejoin the family that she had lost in this life. When it was time, we all knew that we should not prolong this one thing she now wanted, after 79 years of sacrificing for everyone else. When she slipped away from us on Tuesday, it will probably have been the only time she's been happy with the gift we've given her. Now she can go back to fussing over Joanne and James, and playing cards with my grandfather, Eileen, Leona and Sam, and so many others. I take solace in this thought, and it helps me to be happy for where she is now, instead of wishing she were still here. We'll be with her again someday, and that will be the only other gift she'll be happy to get from us. Please try to live as she did. Love with all your heart. Give when you can take. Put your family first. And always remember, that you had the pleasure to know the luckiest card player...ever

Andy - March 01, 2014 at 11:30 AM

JP

Andrew ...Beautiful beyond words

Jean Pennington - March 01, 2014 at 02:14 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Jean Pennington - February 28, 2014 at 12:50 PM

JP

“ I am so very blessed to have called her my Aunt. I hold in my heart so many memories that will carry me through till we meet again. I will always remember her smile and laughter the most.
My deepest sympathy to you Ronnie ,Andy and Aunt Jane.
And to all who have been lucky enough to have known or have been a part of this wonderful woman's life.
You are now at peace.
Love you, Jeanie

Jean Pennington - February 28, 2014 at 12:47 PM

KM

“ Jane, I am so sorry. Words fail me. I hope you can find comfort in the words shared many years ago with me, said by a young Andrew O'Dell " the family is together" My heart felt condolences to the rest of the family, the nieces and nephews. Especially to my son, Rob, she is singing with the angels, your dad, Jim, Joanne, Baby James, and Eileen. There are no tears in Heaven it is us left behind that grieve.

Kim Mitchell - February 27, 2014 at 07:56 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Kim Mitchell - February 27, 2014 at 07:38 PM

MC

“ to jane williams and family, jane i am so sorry to hear about your sister passing. i know she has been through so much in the last year. although she will be truely missed. she is at rest and out of suffering now. she was a wonderful person and is with her sisters and brother. she has gone up to heaven to walk beside the lord. you will be there to see her again some day. she will be missed by all but is at piece now. she was loved by all. marlene

marlene crescenzo - February 27, 2014 at 12:42 PM

KF

“ It saddened me to learn of Margaret's passing in the paper. I have many nice memories of Margaret, Jim and Joanne as neighbors living in the same house as my family. I will never forget watching her putting her stamps in her many stamp collecting books, and she really inspired me to keep up my own collection. I feel grateful to have seen and talked to her last summer. Rest in peace, Margaret. You can now be reunited with your dear husband and daughter.

Karen Nasbe Fairbrother - February 27, 2014 at 12:18 PM

LC

“ Much Love Margaret. You were very much a part of my childhood and I know you are watching after us the way you used to - just from a different view. Give Joanne and Jim a hug for me.

Lisa Close - February 27, 2014 at 11:32 AM



“ Rest in Peace dear Margaret, say hello to Joann and Jim for me. Thank you for helping me with my son Jimmy when he was a baby and all the advice you gave me on his care. I enjoyed many visits with you having coffee with you and Joann. God Bless you. Carol Hughes-Matiak.

Carol Brandes-Matiak - February 27, 2014 at 11:00 AM