



Memorial Program
by the Family of Kay Coleman

Kathleen Coleman

Happiness Always



November 26, 2005

St. Joseph Church

Lake Orion, Michigan

Kathleen (Steil) Coleman

Daughter † Wife † Mother † Grandmother
Great Grandmother † Aunt † Cousin † Friend † Child of God

These are the many roles that Kay Coleman assumed during her life with us on earth. She dearly loved each of these roles. She performed them masterfully.

Kay relished quality relationships. Anyone who was fortunate enough to meet her could testify that Kay had an angelic aura glowing with unconditional love.

Catherine and Frank Steil became the proud parents of beautiful baby girl on December 16, 1921. Kay remained a beautiful person, physically and spiritually, throughout her life. She was raised with Christian values and with a respect for traditions and an appreciation of holidays.

Kay eventually met Murray Coleman, a tall and handsome man, who shared her love of music and dancing. They fell in love, married, and brought nine vibrant and unique children into this world. They raised their children well, always encouraging them to do their very best. Many sacrifices were made to provide the necessities for a family which kept growing, and growing, and growing.

Gatherings of family and friends were important to Kay and Murray. Steil family reunions were a special treat, with many great aunts and uncles paying attention to the Coleman kids who loved the hugs, kisses, and games (not to mention the quarters). Outings to the farm of Betty and Casper Basler, Kay's sister and brother in-law, were always an adventure.

Kay enjoyed sharing her children with her close friends, many of whom became Godparents for the Coleman kids. The sounds of laughter, music, and card shuffling filled the Coleman house when it was Kay and Murray's turn to host their friends from the Pinochle Club.

Kay sold Avon products for more than 40 years. After her first six years as an Avon Representative, Kay was able to save up enough money to buy her own car. She was proud of that accomplishment and used it as an example for her children to get part time jobs so they too could earn their own money.

Lake Orion was always a very special place to Kay. In the 1930s and 1940s, it was a getaway for summer and winter recreation. Eventually, Kay and Murray moved with their family from Ferndale and made Lake Orion their permanent home. St. Joseph's Church became a major part of the life of Kay and Murray and family – Murray as an usher; Kay in the choir; weddings of children; baptisms of grandkids; Midnight Mass on Christmas (with family members and her friend Joie coming back to Kay's for coffee and pastries). Easter Sunday; Ash Wednesday; and, of course, attending the funerals of those who were near and dear.

Kay had a lot of respect for the military, having been a war bride herself and having

sons who served in the military. She loved patriotic events such as celebrating on the Fourth of July. She supported the creation of the Veterans Memorial in Lake Orion. She was proud to be an American.

Kay probably invented the concept of "multi-tasking" – she could do several things at one time – talking the phone, cooking, laundry, and scolding a naughty child – all without skipping a beat.

Kay loved spending the last several years living at Independence Village. The staff were kind and supportive. She became friends with her fellow residents, enjoying their company on a daily basis and going on special outings. She made some very close friendships there.

Kay had planned to host Thanksgiving dinner for her family at her apartment there, but God called her to heaven before she could finish making the carrot pudding she was working on at the time. In fact, the whiskey for the sauce was sitting on the counter and it sure came in handy when her children arrived at her apartment after hearing about her passing. We had a toast to Momma Kay.

Kay's children recall that:

- * She was not judgmental, did not hold grudges, and was very forgiving;
- * She was not a quitter; Kay followed through with her commitments;
- * Despite pressures and stress, she took time to smell the roses along the way;

Kay wishes would have been for us to:

- * Show acts of kindness to others – its more about giving time than money;
- * Be patriotic, just as she was;
- * Gather together for birthdays and holidays; celebrate our lives;
- * Remember to pray, and to sing God's praises as often as we can.

We know that Kay's passing was quick and painless. Although she has left her physical body, her spirit remains in all of our hearts. As the friends and loved ones she left behind, we will honor her legacy by continuing her work. We will keep a positive outlook on life and let music fill our souls. We will dance and be happy.

But the most important way to honor Kay is follow her example. Give the gifts of time, listening, loving and forgiving; remembering that it's the small things that count! We will remember how she chose to live and that will make our hearts smile.

Kay would want us to know that life isn't about days and years. It's what you do with the time and with all the goodness and grace that's inside us. So we will make a beautiful life in her memory and honor.

"Shut the door behind ya. Pass the potatoes. Finish your vegetables. Avon calling. Quit biting your nails. I'll just be a minute." When we hear these phrases, we'll smile and remember mama Kay.

And when we smell the fragrance of lilacs or notice the aroma of German potato salad, then too will we know that Kay is near.

Oh, what a life. O, what a gal. We will miss you Kay. Alleluia and Amen.