



Laure J Leffler

October 6, 1943 - January 1, 2021

Laure J. Leffler of North Tonawanda, New York passed away on January 1, 2021 at the age of 77. Born in Buffalo, NY Laure was the loving daughter of the late Howard E. Leffler and Isabel Leffler Jerome. Laure was also predeceased by her brother John Leffler (Catherine). Laure was the sister to Patricia (Mark) Stewart and Linda (Wayne) Philipson. She was a cherished aunt to Pam (Kristen) Hull, Brian Leffler, David (Dr. Anne Marie Mattingly) Stewart, Dr. Karen (Dr. Joseph) Chruscicki, Brent (Sara) Philipson, and Rachael (Matthew) Donatelli.

She was a great aunt to Kaleb, Keegan, and Calvin Hull, Max and Gavin Leffler, Sarah, Emily, Abigail, and Joey Chruscicki, Jocelyn and Gabe Philipson, and Finn Donatelli. She was a caring Godmother to Arianna Hartsock.

Laure was a friend to her colleagues and students at Gilmore Elementary School in North Tonawanda where she taught for 38 years. She was a member and volunteer at St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church for over 40 years. She was a dear and compassionate friend to her neighbors, high school and college friends, and sorority sisters. Laure was passionate about the Buffalo Sabres and Bills, local theater, BPO, traveling, dolls, doll houses, game day, having lunch at local restaurants with friends, and making family scrapbooks.

In lieu of flowers, Laure's preference was a donation to be made to St. Jude's Church - 800 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda, NY 14120. A Memorial

Mass will be held when the Covid pandemic is over.

Private Burial in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Town of Tonawanda.

Cemetery Details

Mount Olivet Cemetery

4000 Elmwood Avenue
Town Tonawanda, NY 14120

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

MS

“*Laure and I were colleagues at Gilmore Elementary. She was an outstanding teacher and a wonderful friend. I remember that each time we met I received a big hug first. She and Charlotte Venesky both taught 4th grade together for many years and were the best of friends. Laure was so caring of all of her students and her friends. Her mother seemed to be her best friend. She started what every teacher knew as the HaHa Luncheon held the first day of school for retirees. As her mother aged she and Charlotte took over running the party and she is greatly missed by all those who enjoyed and were honored at that party. For myself I shall miss her big smile and loving greeting. She will always be in the prayers of my husband and I - a wonderful colleague and outstanding friend.*”

Marlene Stevens - September 13, 2021 at 11:12 AM

PC

“*I had the pleasure of teaching 4th Grade with Laure at Gilmore School. She loved the children and teaching. She taught me about the old pioneer days and our day of pioneer crafts still hold a special place in my heart. She was always caring and ready to give you a hug when you needed it. Rest In Peace Laure. Love, Patty Coia*”

patricia coia - August 06, 2021 at 10:44 AM

MS

“*My absolute favorite teacher!
So caring, she so loved her students and we loved her!*”

Maryalice Schroeder - August 05, 2021 at 08:43 PM

SS

“ Ms Leffler was my 3rd grade teacher at Gilmore school. She was a very caring teacher. I also Remember her at St Alberts my sons would laugh because she called me Susie. She will be missed

Susan Hurko Schaffer - August 05, 2021 at 07:16 PM

KS

“ I just was thinking about Miss Leffler and decided to search for her on the web; I am so sorry to hear of her passing. Miss Leffler was my 3rd grade teacher at Gilmore School (I am 65.) I remember her so vividly as someone who loved her students; she lit up as each student came in—made us feel like she couldn't wait to see us everyday. She built my confidence. Truly the definition of Excellence in Education—anyone who had her was very lucky.

Kathleen Sutter - July 03, 2021 at 12:51 AM

LD

“ Laure will always hold a special place in our hearts and will be deeply missed. She welcomed us with open arms as family each and every time we visited when our son Matt began dating and ultimately married her niece Rachael. She has given loving care and kindness to them at all times. We are especially grateful for the extra “gramma” love and nurturing she provided to our little grandson, Finn. As we live several hours away it was always a comfort to us that Matt, Rachael, and Finn had her there as extended family. Thank you, “LaLa” and rest well.

Lynn Donatelli - January 12, 2021 at 05:41 PM

LE

“ I met Laure when I was hired by Jim Chiarello as a fifth grade teacher at Gilmore. Laure was a fourth grade teacher just down the hall from me. She and her friend Char Venesky would work several hours after school to give the fourth graders the best education they could get. I remember when Laure would take photos of her students and then have the students write a page about their fourth grade experiences each month, resulting in a memory book for them to cherish (she loved scrapbooking - I always enjoyed looking at the projects she made for her family and friends). I remember another time when we decided to decorate the hall with family hearts, we gave each child a heart to decorate with their family to display in the hall. For some reason, we couldn't find white poster paper that year to trace the hearts on, we could only find blue. I remember telling Laure that we can't use blue since hearts aren't blue. She said that it would be fine and that the students would probably cover them with scraps and photos. Anyway, she explained, there are blue hearts. I had no choice but I wasn't happy about it. We sent the blue hearts home on Friday. When I came back to school on Monday, there was a gift on my desk from Laure. It was a beautiful blue glass heart that Laure bought over the weekend when she was out with friends on one of her adventures. Laure included a note that said, blue hearts do exist. I still have that blue heart hanging on my wall. Laure was right, the children brought their hearts to school and you could barely tell that they were blue. Except, one family kept the heart blue and wrote: I would be blue without you. Now, all I can think of is how Laure will be missed by so many ... we will be blue without her. 💙

Lori Ellman - January 11, 2021 at 10:52 PM

DH

“ She was a lovely lady and was always very kind to our daughter. She stood up for children against other school people who weren't as dedicated to students as she was. She will be missed.



Diana & Bill Hawthorn - January 10, 2021 at 11:32 AM

PD

“ I will miss my good friend Laure. I think of meeting her first at Sacred Heart Academy. I think of the bike rides around Grand Island and camping in Allegany. Laure loved to play games and played to win but always was there to help the newcomer learn the rules. That is what I remember most -- she was there to help and encourage whether it was with life's problems, new math, or a game. of cards. Pat Kondziela Doleski

Pat Doleski - January 10, 2021 at 08:37 AM

JS

“ I was Laure's caregiver for a short. In that short time, I fell in love with Laure. She was more than a client to me. She was a friend and like a mother to me. That's how I felt about her. If you looked up the word saint in the dictionary , you would find Laure's name. She always put others first and herself last. She never complained about her illness. She is my hero! My best memory with Laure is finding catapillers and watching them transform into butterflies. She got so excited about the whole process. I miss her so much already. I love you Laure and whenever I see a monarch butterfly I will think of you. Thank you for making the world a better place. Heaven has another angel.
Joan Schuster

Joan Schuster - January 07, 2021 at 09:42 PM

KB

“ She was the nicest teacher ever! I am so sad to hear of her passing. She was such a caring and dedicated teacher who always went above and beyond. She was loved and respected by all her students and will always be Miss Leffler to me. Many thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Karen Burr - January 07, 2021 at 08:09 AM

WP

“ Laure was a dedicated teacher, devoted to her family and church. She was a friend you could always count on. She would always putting others first. The Game Days she hosted were filled with fun, laughter, good food and friends from all corners of her life. I met Laure at Gilmore School in 1973. Through the years we shared many special times going to the theater, Kleinhans, scrapping, and out to dinner. Laure's strength and positive attitude were remarkable. Recently she taught her beloved Finn, and Arianna about monarch butterflies. Her kindness shown through when she was around my grandchildren. In the end she showed us how to leave with dignity and grace. Rest in Peace dear friend. Thanks for the beautiful memories of the times we shared.

Wendy Planavsky - January 07, 2021 at 07:00 AM

NA

Lauren was a true sweetheart, always with a kind word and smile.

Natalie - August 05, 2021 at 12:42 PM

MA

“ Laure will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace my friend.



maria - January 06, 2021 at 04:16 PM

MA

“ I cared for Laure for the last months of her life. She was a beautiful woman inside and out. Every time I see a monarch butterfly I will always think of her.



maria - January 06, 2021 at 04:13 PM

PH

Thanks for taking such good care of her. We really appreciate it. Pam

Pam Hull - January 06, 2021 at 09:08 PM



Michelle
Palmisano
Costanzo

“ Grew up next door to Laure. She was the most loving and caring woman I know. She will be deeply missed.

Michelle Palmisano Costanzo - January 05, 2021 at 05:19 PM

BZ

“ Lauren was a humble, fun and wonderful woman who treated all with respect and dignity. I am blessed to have worked with her.

Bonnie Zimmerman - January 05, 2021 at 02:47 PM

BZ

Darn autocorrect. Laure

Bonnie Zimmerman - January 05, 2021 at 02:48 PM

PK

“ Awww, Ms. Leffler. Best 4th grade teacher anyone could ask for. I was thankful to have her as my teacher in 80'-81' I don't know anyone who didn't love her. Rest in peace 🙏❤️

Patricia Kirst - January 05, 2021 at 12:36 PM

TB

“*Laure has been a dear, dear friend to my mother for many years. My mother shares story after story of their fun times together, whether they were doll collecting, theater viewing, going out to dinner or scrapbooking. Laure has ensured herself a lasting legacy through all those she touched with her kindness, generosity and selflessness. Her spirit lives on eternally in her students, friends and family. May she Rest In Peace. ❤️*

Tracey Planavsky Belsky - January 05, 2021 at 11:46 AM

DD

“*In 1989, I was hired by NT and assigned to Gilmore. That is where I met Laure and it changed my life forever. She took me under her wing and helped mold me into the teacher I became. Laure taught me how to be a professional. Whether we were doing sleep overs at Fort Niagara, Pioneer Days, raising ducks, summer workshops ...the list is endless-she had such passion for teaching that was infectious and never ending. We went to Sabres games, tailgated at Bills games, went to the theater, and spent quality time together. She loved her nieces and nephews and talked proudly about them. I was blessed to call her a friend for over 35 years. When I retired two years ago, I was asked who I wanted to inviteI did not even hesitate-I said Laure.*

My friend-thank you. You made a difference. I will miss your warm hugs.

Deb DiBernardo

Deb DiBernardo - January 04, 2021 at 10:02 PM

AH

“ When you get older and someone asks you who your most memorable teacher was, the person you mention truly must have made a difference in your learning and your life. Ms. Leffler has always been that teacher for me. I had Ms. Leffler for first and fourth grade. She was caring, compassionate, patient, empowering and encouraging. She leaves an amazing legacy.

A. Hokinson - January 04, 2021 at 09:46 PM

PM

“ I just can't get her out of my mind. She was the most loving, caring generous friend anyone could have. Two out of three of my children had her as teacher and loved her dearly. She was my daughter's mentor as she started teaching. More recently she gave me a place to stay as I transitioned from my home to apt. We were the Gilmore gals along with other teachers and parents for 45 years. She will be truly missed

Patricia Muehlbauer - January 04, 2021 at 09:03 PM

DW

“ I am so sad & send my condolences to Laure's family. Laure was such a special person - she was so good to my Mom - always made sure she picked her up for "game day" after Mom stopped driving. She visited her faithfully during her last months & was such a ray of sunshine to us. Our loss is heaven's gain- I'm sure Laure is already organizing a party! God bless -
Debbie (Wenske) Whais

Debbie Whais - January 04, 2021 at 08:51 PM

CV

“ *This is probably one of the most heartbreaking things to hear. She was one of the best teachers at Gilmore Elementary. I had her for 3rd grade. (I'm now 31 yo)*
She had a heart of gold and such a beautiful personality. We would have to give her a hug every time we would leave class for the day. Rest in peace Mrs. Leffler. ❤️❤️

Crystal Vancuran - January 04, 2021 at 08:41 PM

BO

Laure has been a dear friend for about 50 years. She was always there for me. She had such a magnetic personality, there was no leaving each other. Her 'stamp of friendship' was a 'stamp' for life. When I was around her I felt like I was her best friend, though I knew I had to share her with so very many others. I knew that was her calling. Laure made everyone she knew not just special, but very special to her. Once she knew you, you were friends for life. But, then, you were not only life-long buddies with Laure, you were life-long buddies with the rest of her 'family of friends'. I' felt peace around her - like, she totally understood me and wanted the best for me. I didn't have to try hard to please her, as anything I did for her was always grand. I last saw her a couple of weeks before she passed, bringing her some home- made broth, and she looked just as young as this memorial picture of her. Her thoughts and joy that day were as youthful and promising as when I first met her at Gilmore school. She was, and is, a bright light in my life. . . the bright light of God shining upon us all. Rest in God's peace, now, Laure, and pray for us here so we will meet again. Love you, Laure

Barbara Bozek Oswald - January 23, 2021 at 09:19 PM

JC

“ *She was hands down my favorite teacher! Such a caring and loving woman! So sad to hear of her passing. Sending thoughts and prayers to her family.*



Jennifer Clough - January 04, 2021 at 08:04 PM

CT

“ *She was a caring and dedicated teacher who touched so many lives. I hope she knows how much she was loved and respected by her students.*

Cindi Tysick - January 04, 2021 at 07:46 PM

TF

“ *I'm so sad to read this. I had her for third grade (and I'm in my early 60s), then my niece ,and my own daughter and son had her.. One of the truly dedicated teacher that gave her all to make learning fun.. one of all of our favorite teachers. Just an all around wonderful, caring ,helpful person always. God bless her . My deepest sympathies to her family.*

Terri Fiegel - January 04, 2021 at 07:39 PM

DA

“ *Laure was a dear friend to me and my son during a rough time Love ❤️🙏*



Dana - January 04, 2021 at 05:47 PM