



Lou Ellen Sullivan

September 26, 1934 - September 17, 2020

MOORESVILLE – Lou Ellen Brooks Sullivan died sitting near her husband in the serene setting of the sun porch of their beloved Lake Norman home on Sept. 17, 2020, nine days shy of her 86th birthday.

A wife and partner to Leonard Holmes Sullivan for 67 years, “Mom” to three sons, and “Grandma Lou” to six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, she was born on September 26, 1934 in Bath as the cherished only child of the Hon. Ray Shavender Brooks and Mildred Inez Everett Brooks.

With her husband and two young sons, and expecting the third, Lou moved to Mooresville in 1960 and for most of the next 60 years until health concerns curtailed her activities, she was an active member of the local business, church and social community.

Her deep ties to Mooresville include a multi-decade run as part of the hands-on ownership team – the Sullivans with J.D. and Nelda Chamberlain – in charge of operations at the Mooresville Tribune newspaper. She was a kindergarten teacher at Mooresville’s Little Folks School operated by Vivian Combs before opening her own facility, and then was a long-time advertising representative for the Tribune, and later for other publications in the Lake Norman region.

She was an active member and officer in the Mooresville Woman's Club and other service organizations, a devoted member of Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, serving in various leadership positions, and for years was directly involved in municipal and county election proceedings as a poll worker and elections officer.

Later in life she became the ring-leader of a traveling weekly card game with what a few requesting-to-remain-anonymous ladies said sometimes adopted what they politely described as "Lou rules."

But for all of her years, the outside jobs, enjoyments and responsibilities remained secondary to her most accomplished and emphasized roles as the undisputed boss in a house full of men; coach, advisor, demanding critic and staunch defender of her husband, her three sons and, eventually, their families; and surrogate mother, chef, counselor, cheerleader, scolder and shoulder-to-cry-on for any and all friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates or others who – for a short time or forever – entered her family's circle.

The kitchen was her kingdom, and if you visited, for a weekend or a moment, you were not only well fed, but departed, without question, with leftovers. For a vast collection of her sons' classmates and friends – from grade school through college and well, well beyond – Lou's Kitchen was an oasis of "Here's what's ready, but this will just take a minute."

For homecoming and other covered-dish events at church, holiday parties or any occasion where an entree was expected (partially because she knew how much of it her boys would consume), she'd bring a buffet. And her Southern tradition masterpiece were quarter-sized handmade "Granny Biscuits" – perfected into a delicacy from a recipe handed down from her mother – that filled the house with a tantalizing aroma, perfectly soaked up a pad of butter and rarely, if ever, made it from oven to table without a sampling.

She knew the path to every heart started in the stomach, and if she loved you – or anyone in her family thought enough of you to invite you in – you were fed, and fed well, not only with nourishment, but with care, compassion and the sweetest soft smile imaginable from a small-statured woman as tough and stubborn as rusty nails. Through her cooking and caring, she poured out her heart, her most gracious and precious asset, to others. And in surroundings she adored, near the man she shared a lifetime with, her loving heart, at last, gave its last.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by sons Leonard H. “Lynnie” Sullivan Jr. and wife Deborah of Cary; Larry Keith Sullivan and wife Tammie; and Lee Sullivan, all of Mooresville. Grandchildren are Mary Elizabeth Smith (Daniel) of Cary; Timothy Sullivan (Lauren) of Mooresville; Leonard H. “Trey” Sullivan III of Cary; Theodore Sullivan (Stephanie) of Morrisville; Jenna Lynn Sullivan of Mooresville; and Braelyn Raye Sullivan of Charlotte. Great-grandchildren are Maizlyn Sullivan of Cary and Landon Sullivan of Mooresville.

A memorial service will be in an outdoor setting at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, 804 Fieldstone Road. A viewing will be held in the church sanctuary starting at 3:15 p.m. prior to the service. Masks are encouraged for the viewing. A private burial will be held at a later date at Salisbury National Cemetery.

For those who are unable to attend the graveside, you may go to the following link for the live stream

<https://www.facebook.com/CavinCookFuneralHomeServices/>

Lou loved flowers, but she requested memorials be made to Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, 804 Fieldstone Road, Mooresville, NC 28115; or the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38015.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Sullivan family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

SEP **26.** 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM (ET)

Fieldstone Presbyterian
804 Fieldstone Road
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Funeral Service

SEP **26.** 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM (ET)

Fieldstone Presbyterian
804 Fieldstone Road
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



“ *Lou Ellen Sullivan*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Lou Ellen Sullivan*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Lou Ellen Sullivan*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Carolyn & Jay Stevanus lit a candle in memory of Lou Ellen Sullivan*



carolyn & jay stevanus - September 29, 2020 at 04:38 PM



“ *Ms. Lou was a very sweet lady with a smile that lit up a room. She will be missed. She's a angel. Carla G.*



Carla Graham - September 23, 2020 at 09:02 PM

AG

“ *Alisha Gonzalez lit a candle in memory of Lou Ellen Sullivan*



Alisha Gonzalez - September 23, 2020 at 04:23 PM

KP

“ *Karen Rogers Patterson lit a candle in memory of Lou Ellen Sullivan*



Karen Rogers Patterson - September 21, 2020 at 05:37 PM

JL

“ *So many fond memories of Lou through the Tribune, but the ones that also come to mind are the work she did with my own mother through their organization. Fittingly, I just came across photos yesterday of a cruise she took with my mom and 2 others. They definitely looked like they were having a good time! Will be praying for Leonard at the entire Sullivan Family.*

Jill P Lowe - September 21, 2020 at 01:35 PM

DM

“ *Donna McDaniels lit a candle in memory of Lou Ellen Sullivan*



Donna McDaniels - September 21, 2020 at 11:20 AM

PB

“ I was so sorry to hear of Lou s passing. Lou and Len were such wonderful next door neighbors at the lake. My parents, Senie and Archie Cline, enjoyed them so much. Lou was always smiling and had something funny to say when she visited next door. She was a kind and caring lady. Warm regards to the family. Pat Cline Bizzell

pat cline bizzell - September 20, 2020 at 10:10 AM



“ So sorry for your loss prayers are with you all.

Jana Bard - September 19, 2020 at 04:55 PM

CW

“ She was such a wonderful Mom she loved her children very much. We will miss her. Love to the family.

Cheryl Talley Wang - September 19, 2020 at 03:32 PM

RN

“ sorry to hear this news, Lou was a sweet and caring lady. She will be missed. Prayers to he family.

RITA NEILL - September 19, 2020 at 02:07 PM

SC

“ Words escape me. But these beautiful memories you shared say it all. She truly had a heart of gold, and it was my pleasure and privilege to be one of Lou's "girls". I dearly loved her and will miss her. She always had the sweetest smile and lots of love to share. I will always treasure the memories of being part of the Tribune family. Sending my deepest condolences to all of you-her precious family she so fiercely loved. Prayers for strength, comfort and peace.

*Sending my love and blessings,
Sharon Hartsell Childers*

Sharon Childers - September 19, 2020 at 11:05 AM

JK

Such a great obit..Loved reading it..Beautiful Lady.

John Kirkman - September 20, 2020 at 04:48 PM