



## Marie Louise Etgen

March 1, 1933 - June 3, 2025

Marie Louise Marchetti Etgen, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2025 at the age of 92 in the company of her husband of 70 years James Robert Etgen. Born on March 1, 1933 in Richmond, Virginia, Marylou was a vibrant spirit whose warmth and easy laugh touched the lives of everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Although she held many jobs including secretary, seamstress, and librarian, Marylou always said her primary passion was raising her six children. She is remembered for dancing while she lovingly cooked meals based on recipes handed down from her mother and relatives in Italy. She was a nurturing mother to her 6 children, Ken, Trish, Rob, Lou, John and Paul, and a doting grandmother to her 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren, who adored their "Nonni." Marylou took great joy in hosting large family gatherings, filling her home with laughter, love, and the aromas from her delicious cooking.

Marylou took great pride in her Italian heritage with regular visits to her ancestral family home in Barga (Province di Luca) in northern Tuscany. These trips revolved around animated conversations with relatives and stops at important places: where her mother worked as a chef; the site of her parent's first kiss; the hiding place for relatives in WWII. Marylou spoke Italian fluently and was an active member of the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge of the Sons of Italy in Richmond where she enjoyed monthly luncheons with her sister and other

friends and relatives.

Marylou was also an avid athlete with particular talent for tennis and golf. Marylou and her husband Jim were an award winning tennis doubles pair. She had a lifelong passion for walking in the woods and for decades led a hike up a mountain on her birthday each year which her kids dubbed "Mumma to the Mountain." Famously, Marylou and her hiking group of 70-80 year olds found themselves lost on a lengthy hike within the Dolly Sods Wilderness in West Virginia. They survived a cold and rainy night with comfort and good cheer around the fire Marylou built.

Marylou is survived by her husband Jim Etgen, her six children Ken (Wanda), Trish (Mike), Rob (Suzanne), Lou (Cindy), John (Cheryl), and Paul, her 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren, her sister Lena (Marchetti) Donnini of Richmond, Virginia, and many cherished friends. She was preceded in death by her two brothers Raymond (Laura) and Peter (Bonnie) Marchetti.

A celebration of Marylou's life will be held privately near Bryce Resort, her home for over forty years of retirement, on June 9. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to Giuseppe Verdi Lodge at 7342 Verdi Lane in Mechanicsville, Va. 23116, or Our Lady of the Shenandoah Mission Chapel at 240 Fritzel Way, Basye, Va. 22810.

Marie Louise Marchetti Etgen will be profoundly missed, but her spirit will live on in the hearts of those she loved and who loved her in return.

# Tribute Wall

DO

“*Mary Lou was a kind hearted lady from our church in Bryce, Our Lady of the Shenandoah. I remember she and her husband, Jim always helped clean the church. They were such good people. I enjoyed their company talking after Mass and at our spaghetti dinners. May Mary Lou rest in peace. Sending prayers for her soul, for Jim and the rest of the family.*”

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**Doris O'Donnell** - August 10, 2025 at 10:15 PM

TE

“*Just a note to our wonderful Uncle Jim and cousins Kenny, Trish, Robbie, Lou, John and Paulie; our parents and the four of us will be with you in spirit all day tomorrow thinking of and remembering your wonderful mother and our "ever smiling", and "always so cheerful" Aunt Mary Lou.*”

*We thank you for sharing her with us and pray that heaven's angels cradle her in their collective arms and whisk her most expeditiously to our father's home.*

*We are thinking of you, Tom, Jeff, Jill and Doug.*

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**TOM ETGEN** - June 08, 2025 at 06:24 PM

AS

“*Mary Lou was a great lady. Enjoyed our times together. Shared alot of puzzles and her dump cake was the best. She sure will be missed. Audrey*”

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**Aubrey Scrivener** - June 08, 2025 at 01:41 PM

AR

“ I remember my mother Betty, Jim’s sister absolutely loved the hospitality Mary Lou showed when she stayed at the mountain cabin. She talked of those memories often. There were lots of laughs and hand and foot card game played. Rest in Peace Mary Lou.

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**any reindel** - June 04, 2025 at 06:17 PM

PS

I remember fondly what Mary Lou said while golfing with the ladies golf group at Bryce one Wednesday morning... "when I die, I want to be cremated and my ashes put in the hole on #1, because that's the only way I'll get there!" Such a great sense of humor. God bless Mary Lou and her family! Prayers...

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**Pat Snyder** - June 05, 2025 at 02:07 PM