



Myrtle "Penny" DeForest

October 15, 1960 - August 22, 2024

Myrtle "Penny" DeForest, age 63, of Peoria, IL. unexpectedly passed away on August 22, 2024 at Carle hospital.

Penny was born on October 15, 1960, to Irene and Walter DeForest, in Detroit MI.

Penny was a treasured daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend.

Penny got her nickname from her aunt, she would often ask for pennies to get candy from the corner store. She carried this name through adulthood, eventually becoming mom, and grandma.

Surviving are her children, Nicole, Dana, JD, and Mickey; her grandchildren, Asia, TreVeon, Aanijah, KeShawn, Zy'Aire, Jdrion, Alexxa, and Aubrey; her great-grandson, Keanu; and her grand-dogs, Blue and Reign. She also leaves behind her sister, Darla; her in-laws, Rusty (Tammy), and Wanda; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

Penny was preceded in death by her parents, Irene and Walter; her lifelong partner, James "Jimmy"; her parent-in-laws, Richard and Darlene; her siblings, George, Carrie, Butch and Dale; and her in-laws, Michelle and Mark.

Penny was known for her creative spirit and green thumb. She was often found painting, enjoying family time, listening to music, tending to her plants, binge watching her favorite TV shows, or catching up on the latest social media gossip. These hobbies brought great joy to her and those around her, creating lasting memories cherished by all who knew her.

A private funeral service will be held to honor Penny's life. The Schmidt-Haller Funeral Home in Peoria, IL., will be assisting the family during this difficult time. A memorial celebration will take place at a later date. Penny's warmth, creativity, and loving presence will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that you make contributions to Penny's online fundraiser.

Tribute Wall

CO

“ *Myrtle "Penny" DeForest*

coco - April 07, 2025 at 02:56 PM

NI

“ *I love and miss you so much mama!*

Nicole - November 11, 2024 at 07:53 PM

DA

“ *Happy Birthday in Heaven Mom. I miss you so much. I love you.*

Dana - October 15, 2024 at 12:06 AM

DA

“ *Tomorrow makes one month since you been gone. I had my first birthday In 37 years where I didn't get a "happy birthday sissy" from you. The days are just going by, but the emotions haven't changed. We miss you so much mom, nothing is the same without you. I still can't wrap my mind around you being gone, this doesn't even seem real. Tomorrow the fake ass family will gather to "celebrate" your life but couldn't do it while you were alive. I hope you see now why I didn't mess with any of them. Pick and choose when to love someone is nasty work, but I guess, to each its own, really their loss because you was an amazing woman, your heart is so big baby, no one can take that from you. I love you mom, I miss you so bad doll.*

Dana - September 21, 2024 at 11:09 PM

NL

“ Our birthdays are coming up. Dana, me, aanijah and then You and Dad. Idk how I will get through your birthday. We had a vacation planned and I'm so absolutely sad. You were a literal angel. I miss you every day and I cry so much. Grief is hard, but missing you is the hardest thing I ever had to do: knowing you won't come home, knowing I never get to sit at the table and talk to you, we can't watch monk or bones. I took time for granted and I wish I could have more of it. I'm so sorry baby. I'm so sorry you're no longer here. I love you sweet mama!!

Nicole Losh - September 16, 2024 at 03:04 PM

DA

“ Today makes three weeks since you left us. People keep saying things will get easier but they don't. Just the thought of having to live the rest of my life without you is heartbreaking. I miss you mom, my emotions are all over the place, I have so much I need to say but I can't find the correct words to use. I hate being selfish because I know GOD needed you more, I just wasn't ready mom, I wasn't. I can't even fathom the thought of having to live life without you but this is now my reality. I pray you're at peace mom. I pray at the moment of your passing you closed your eyes and replayed all of your happiest memories so you weren't scared when you transitioned from life to death. I love you beyond earth beautiful.

Dana - September 13, 2024 at 12:14 AM

MW

“ My Mom's Firsts!!\r\nFirst Daughter,\r\nFirst Granddaughter,\r\nFirst Great Grandson!!

Mickey Waldrop - September 09, 2024 at 12:09 PM

MW

“ It's still unbelievable!! I try to wrap my head around this nightmare, I just can't. I get the feeling you will be calling me at any moment saying \"hey sissy what you doing?\" \"Whats my grandbabies doing?\" I hate this so much. This isn't what I was expecting at all.. you were supposed to live forever mom. At least that's what I thought.. Idk what to do without you. Come visit me and tell me how you're doing. Was dad happy to see you?!?! Did you and Aunt Carrie catch up?!?! Was you happy to see your mom again, does she still have long black hair?!?! Come give me a hug only a mom can give, please!! I love you mom, and miss you so damn much!

Mickey Waldrop - September 09, 2024 at 11:58 AM

DA

“ I miss you my sweet baby. Nothing could have ever prepared me for losing you, this is the worst feeling ever. You didn't write down any of your recipes, Coco doesn't know how to make your chili, and I need to know how to make that potato soup. I hope you know how much we loved you and I hope you're at peace. Please come to my dreams and tell me you love me.

Dana - September 04, 2024 at 04:47 PM

JD

“ My fondest memory of my aunt Penny as a child is when my brothers, mother and I would go to her house and she would give us/my cousins glass bottles to return to the corner store so we could get “penny” candy... oddly enough! It was across from my aunt Darla's house so we would visit them sometimes too but I always knew I was getting my candy when I went to see aunt Penny and uncle Jimmy! ❤️ They both were truly such warm loving people! I feel very blessed to have had the pleasure of having such a loving, kind and extremely patient aunt! Sending all my love, prayers and well wishes to you all. \r\n\r\nJasmine Deforest

Jasmine Deforest - September 04, 2024 at 11:15 AM

NL

“ I love you sweet angel!

Nicole Losh - September 04, 2024 at 10:21 AM

NL

“ Being here without you is a chore. To wake up daily and not hear “good morning sissy” is gut wrenching. I walk past your door and am broken! This pain won’t go away and nobody truly can understand how I feel. The most precious person isn’t here to guide me anymore and my heart is ripped apart. I love you mama! Sweet, sweet mama!

Nicole Losh - September 04, 2024 at 10:17 AM

MW

“ Mom?! I miss you so much. Losing you has been the hardest, and definitely the worst pain I've ever felt. My heart is literally broken in pieces. I'm sure you see how much your kids and grandkids love and miss you. Our lives will never be the same. Throughout the day when I'm doing something I always have a memory of you. I stare at your pictures.. I replay our conversations in my head.. Each minute I miss you more. I wasn't able to give you the gift I got you. I wish so much that this would have turned out different. I wasn't ready for you to leave. We were planning on a surgery, not your death. I hope you're at peace. I'll see you when it's my time mom. I love you to the moon and back!

Mickey Waldrop - September 02, 2024 at 02:06 PM

DA

“ I miss you darling, I miss you so much, words can't even describe the pain I feel inside. Grief is the price you pay for love, so I'll take every bit of this heartache because God only knows how much I love you.

Dana - September 01, 2024 at 06:26 PM

CC

“ I will never forget you opening your home to me when I was young. Don't know where I'd be today without your help. You are loved & missed beyond measures 💕

Chris Carrigan - August 30, 2024 at 06:19 PM

WL

“ I have so many memories of Penny. The one I will never forget is when we went swimming in the Mackinaw river and she saw a snake in the water she let out a big scream and got out of the river. She was like hell No I'm not getting back in that river..

Wanda Losh - August 30, 2024 at 03:35 PM

DL

“ I miss you mom. We picked out your urn yesterday, your final resting place is beautiful. Planning your funeral, writing your obituary, and picking out your urn has been the hardest thing I have ever done. I wasn't ready for you to leave, I needed more time 😭

Dana L - August 30, 2024 at 12:09 PM

MW

“ I've known this wonderful woman all my life. I am her oldest child. This beautiful soul is my momma. I have so many memories with her I can't share just one. My mom was one of the strongest humans you would ever know. She was the glue that held us together when our dad passed. She helped everyone even if she didn't have the means to. I could go on and on about my momma but I don't have to say much. Everyone who knew her knew she was always there. You know how much I miss you. I love you mom, to the moon and back.

Mickey Waldrop - August 30, 2024 at 12:51 AM

RM

“ I have so many memories, I don't know where to start. Growing up I was always at my Aunt Penny and Uncle Jimmy's house, until we moved I was practically one of their own. As an adult she always offered a listening ear and always always validated my feelings, even if she didn't agree. After my mom passed, I was navigating life without her and Aunt Penny swept in and helped me with my boys as I started my nursing career so I didn't have to stress about childcare. She treated my boys like her own and they loved having her there for them. To this day they love horror movies because every Friday she would have a movie night with them and would mostly choose scary movies. My favorite memories are probably our time in the kitchen, she was an amazing cook and we often cooked together and she taught me so many delicious meals. We were always laughing and gossiping and enjoyed each other's company. I'll miss you forever Aunt P, thanks for everything. Love always, Rocky

Rachel McDermott - August 29, 2024 at 09:08 PM

RL

“ I remember when you lived on Shelley 700 block you and Jimmy conned me into trying your butter noodles and I remember saying that's just noodles with butter but you still insisted on trying it so I did OMG fell in love couldn't believe how good they were plus remember all the times we had penny at urine Jimmy's house all the little parties we had when I come home from Little Caesars or Subway just having great old family time them are the days I miss so please give everybody a hug for me and tell them that everybody misses them love you until we meet again

Rusty Losh - August 29, 2024 at 07:49 PM

JJ

“ Penny was a wonderful lady she was my best friend we grew together I met penny when I was 8 years old she was my best friend we went to school together we have so much fun when we were growing up when I will 14 that's the last time I seen about 2 years ago I will looking for her on Facebook and we found each other on Facebook I was so excited to find penny I gave her my number and she called me and we was so happy to hear each other voice we were laughing about the good old days we talked a lot on the phone and she always talked about her kids how wonderful they are I was so happy for her and you we talked about her grandkids and my grandkids and I always told her I was so happy we found each other on Facebook before we hang up from each other we always told each other we love each other I sure going to miss you Penny I have an empty place in my heart I feel someone ripped my heart out because of my heart is aching I should love you Penny and you was a wonderful friend and he was my best friend and I cannot ask for a better friend than you you always was there for me and I tried to be there for you you was my best friend I love you so much as a sister I love you penny I will see you when God call me home love you so much and I'm going to miss you a whole bunch

Judy jennings - August 29, 2024 at 06:51 PM

MB

“ I could be upstairs on Shelley St and I would hear her say Shell will you make Aunt Penny a glass of tea lol. I made it every single time. She was an absolute angel, she has taken many in to give them a place to lay their head or something to eat. She will be missed by many

Michelle Behm - August 29, 2024 at 11:10 AM

KC

“ I met Penny and Jimmy when I was Jean Carrigan girlfriend. Penny was always so nice to me and we would talk a lot. She made me feel like family.

Kathy Cooper - August 29, 2024 at 09:07 AM

DR

“ Penny and Aunt Darla got Uncle Dale to teach me how to drive a stick shift. Well let's just say your mom and aunt had a great laugh cause I tore out the clutch and I think I gave Uncle Dale whiplash. So Everytime I seen your mom after that she would hold her neck and just start laughing. She was such a sweet heart.

Dawn Ramsey - August 29, 2024 at 08:11 AM

SH

“ First time I met you was when dad kept Charlene and I for a few weeks during summer vacation. We was about 10 and 11. You was so much fun. You took us to the movies and your boyfriend at the times house to hang with his brothers that were our age. We grew much closer over the years because dad liked visiting family. You were a wonderful person with a kind heart ❤️. I am so proud you were my aunt Penny. Kiss dad and my boys for me. Love you.

Sherry Horner - August 27, 2024 at 04:27 PM

JD

“ I don't have very many pictures with my beautiful mom but I get a constant reminder everytime I look in the mirror this is 1 woman I wasn't willing to let go we talked the other day and I made a promise to her that plays over and over in my head the voicemails she left me the night B4 I'll always here her voice I'm gunna miss u till I die hope your in peace now I no your not in pain no more I am proud you was my mom I hate the fact your gone but I promise you will never be forgotten

JD DeForest - August 27, 2024 at 11:42 AM

PB

“ My fondest memories of Penny is at my Aunt Darlene and Uncle Dick's house during the holidays. She and Jimmy were always happy and so in love. We had a lot of laughs and fun times. I can only imagine the smile on your face when Jimmy and all our loved ones greet you at the golden gate. My condolences to to the family.

Pam Board - August 26, 2024 at 08:21 PM

BB

“ I will miss talking with you about little things. Watch over everyone and give grandma and pops a hug for me. I love ya Aunt Penny.

Brittney Beard - August 26, 2024 at 05:26 PM

NI

“ I love so you much mom!

Nicole - August 26, 2024 at 03:57 PM

FH

“ Biggest heart in the world. Wasn't related by blood but treated me like I was. You'll always be my aunt Penny. ❤️

Froman Hollie - August 26, 2024 at 03:53 PM

DL

“ I miss you deeply mom, I'm so sorry this happened to you. I love you beyond life.

Dana Losh - August 26, 2024 at 03:44 PM