



## Mary A. (Peaches) Vandergrift

August 30, 1926 - August 19, 2023

Mary Alice Peppas was still eating meals in a high chair when her Father, a Greek immigrant who entered America via Ellis Island, gave her the moniker, "Peaches". The name stuck for 96 years, 11 months, 18 days. There are people, among her many friends, who think that is her actual name.

Peaches graduated high school in Huntington, IN. She chose to pursue a nursing career, so her Father sent her to John Hopkins University for nurse's training.

She returned to Indiana and began working at Henry County Hospital. It was there she experienced a simple twist of fate. Joe Vandergrift combined alcohol, a fast car, a concrete bridge abutment, and a 36-degree veer to the right, in the same equation. The stringent laws of Physics sent him to the same hospital where Peaches worked. They met, pretty much liked each other, and got married; much to the chagrin of her Father- Joe wasn't Greek. Emotions leveled out. Joe and Peaches built a home in Middletown. Had three children and was married for 46 years, 5 months until Joe's death in 1996.

Peach is known for her constant smile and endless compassion. She is predeceased by her parents, a sister, a brother, and her husband Joe.

She is survived by her 3 children, Joe (Lorena) Vandergrift, Amy Vandergrift, Laura Alley, 5 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 3 nephews, and 1 niece.

Per Peaches' emphatic directive, there will be no services and cremation will take place. Loose Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the

Vandergrift family. Please visit [www.loosecares.com](http://www.loosecares.com) to place a memory of Peaches.

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ Joe and Peach are friends of the family and I was fortunate to know them and blessed to see her recently. She is as beautiful and sweet as she was 50 years ago. My sympathies to the family.

Beth Cox - August 22, 2023 at 10:41 PM

KM

“ So very sorry for you loss .Peach was a wonderful lady



Kay Miller - August 22, 2023 at 05:59 PM

NF

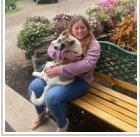
“ I am so sorry to hear about this. Peach was a good mother and grandmother. She was very active in a lot of stuff in this town and very respected for what she did. Sending prayers to the family. She will be missed.

Nancy Frazee - August 22, 2023 at 11:14 AM

RT

“ I had the privilege of knowing Peaches since I was 18. She was warm, welcoming, and loving. The world was a better place for her being in it. My sincere condolences to Joe, Amy, and Laura. Becky Schell

rebecca troke - August 22, 2023 at 06:17 AM



“ *Such a wonderful soul !! She will be greatly missed...Jay & Jennifer Huser*

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**Jay Huser** - August 20, 2023 at 01:15 PM