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## Kitty Cooney Storen, mom who became a lawyer, dies

BY DAN CORTEZ • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 22, 2009

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Kitty Cooney Storen raised six daughters before she went to the University of Detroit Mercy for a law degree. She went on to become a lawyer at Plunkett Cooney, the firm her father helped found, and eventually a fund-raiser at Loyola High School in Detroit.



Kitty Cooney Storen

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"She was an exceptionally intelligent Irish mother," Bob Storen said Saturday of his wife of 45 years.

Mrs. Storen of Bloomfield Hills died at her home Friday of brain cancer. She was 67.

Mrs. Storen, whose given name was Mary Catherine, graduated from Immaculata High School in Detroit in 1959, shortly after she met Bob Storen. Five years later they were married. Once the couple's youngest daughter started first grade, Mrs. Storen went back to school to get a law degree.

"She always had this propensity for wanting to go to law school," said Bob Storen, who worked as a general contractor. "Needless to say, she was the oldest person in her class. I played Mr. Mom for a while."

After graduation in 1987, she went to work defending clients in professional malpractice cases, including working for the firm her father helped create. When the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law called with an offer to become development director with a focus on fund-raising, Mrs. Storen jumped at the chance. She later took a similar position at Loyola High School in Detroit.

"She had to raise \$850,000 a year to keep that school going," Bob Storen said of her time at Loyola. "She always considered herself a Detroitier and wanted to help the city."

Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughters, Tricia Van Faussien, Katie Shafer, Meghan Carter, Elizabeth Kent, Stephanie Jett and Julie Lupo; 12 grandchildren, and eight siblings.

Visitation will be 2-8 p.m. Monday at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks, Troy. A scripture service will begin at 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Hugo of the Hills Church, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills.

Memorials may be sent to the Kitty Storen Memorial Fund at Loyola High School, 15325 Pinehurst,

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