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Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mary Catherine 'Kitty' Storen, Bloomfield Hills

School fundraiser enjoyed 'giving back' to education

Mark Hicks / The Detroit News

Much of Kitty Storen's life revolved around her family.

She often spent summers with relatives at a cottage near Lake Erie. Other times, she cheered on her grandchildren during their sports matches, and many Sundays were spent coordinating large dinners for relatives.

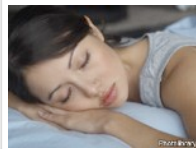
"She was the glue that kept everyone together," said her daughter, Elizabeth Kent. "Family was most important."

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Mrs. Storen died Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. She was 67.

Born Aug. 24, 1941, in Detroit, Mary Catherine Cooney attended Gesu Catholic School and graduated from Immaculata High School in 1959.

In 1964, she wed Bob Storen.

Earning a degree from Marygrove College, Mrs. Storen taught second grade at Gesu for several years before starting a family. After her youngest child started school, she began attending the University of Detroit School of Law. Graduating in 1987, she worked at local law firms, including Plunkett Cooney, which her father helped found.

Specializing in legal malpractice cases, Mrs. Storen "liked the challenge of it all," Kent said. "It provided her with a different sort of intellectual stimulation."

After practicing there, she became development director at her alma mater, networking with alumni and helping fundraise, relatives said. She later served in a similar role at Loyola High School. "She just had a talent for drawing people in and getting them to commit to the institutions," Kent said.

At Loyola, Mrs. Storen helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year and enjoyed "giving back to the education of Detroit," her husband said.

And not only did Mrs. Storen take "a real interest in all aspects of the school," said Loyola president, Father David Mastrangelo, she helped launch a work-internship program for juniors and seniors. "She was always looking for kids to be successful beyond high school."

Other survivors include daughters Tricia Van Faussien, Katie Shafer, Meghan Carter, Stephanie Jett and Julie Lupo; 12 grandchildren; and siblings Bill Cooney, Pat Hathaway, Margaret Casey, Ann Nordloh, Henry Cooney, Eileen Finney, Julia Cooney and Michael Cooney.

A funeral Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. today at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills. Visitation begins at 10 a.m.

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Mrs. Storen



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