



Nellie H. Cairns

March 17, 1930 - March 10, 2016

Nellie H. Cairns of Reading, formerly of Bryn Mawr, passed away March 10th in her home after a long battle with COPD and dementia.

Born in Malvern, she was the daughter of the late Frank T. and Nellie T. (Smith) Hess.

Nellie loved playing cards, Dominoes with Betty, Jim and Jimmy, casinos (she loved those nickel slots), bowling and bragging about her garden that her son, John planted for her. She spent many an hour babysitting for her grandchildren and then great-grandchildren until her illness made it impossible. At that time she loved having the great-grandchildren visit.

Nellie worked for The Bell Telephone Company (Verizon) for nearly 36 years. She did confirm that during full moons, as she would put it “the crazies would come out”.

When Nellie moved to Reading almost 10 years ago with her daughter, Debbie, Nellie became Debbie’s sidekick going everywhere with her. Nellie attended a day program where she made many friends over the years but she let everyone know that her heart still belonged in Bryn Mawr.

She is survived by a son James, Jr., daughter-in-law, Betty (Hodgkinson) and grandson, James, III, her daughter Deborah (Cairns) Harmer, granddaughters, Jennifer Harmer-Shaw, Danielle Harmer and eight great-grandchildren, Nathaniel, Ashley, Hannah, Sidnia, Nideara, Lyndsey, Robert and Ethan, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, James, Sr., son, John and grandson, Robert and sister, Frances Gill Hess.

The family will receive family and friends at a viewing set for March 19th from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at Lower Merion Baptist Church, 911 New Gulph Road, Bryn Mawr. Services at 11:00 with interment immediately following at Philadelphia Memorial Park, Frazer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Lower Merion Baptist Church, 911 New Gulph Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, in memory of Nellie Cairns.

Cemetery Details

Philadelphia Memorial Park

124 Phoenixville Pike
Frazer, PA 19355

Previous Events

The family will receive guests

MAR 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lower Merion Baptist Church
911 New Gulph Road
Bryn Mawr, PA

Funeral Service

MAR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lower Merion Baptist Church
911 New Gulph Road
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Nellie H. Cairns.* ”



March 16, 2016 at 04:46 PM