



Carmel B. Brassbridge

March 19, 1943 - August 27, 2010

LISBON – Carmel B. Brassbridge, 67, a resident of Surprise, AZ., was born to a new life Friday, August 27th at the home of her sister, Muriel Rivard so that Carmel's family could be with her and her husband, Harvard for her final days. She was born in Lewiston, March 19, 1943, the daughter of Armand and Florida (Champagne) Charest. While growing up in Lewiston was a member of Holy Cross Church, was a 1961 graduate of Lewiston High School. While raising a family she balanced work and home duties during her early years. She was very proud of continuing her education and graduating from CMVTI licensed nursing program in 1982. She then worked in nursing until her retirement. She met her husband, Harvard on April 27, 1983 a date that they celebrated annually along with their wedding anniversary. Besides being devoted to her family, she had a strong devotion to the St. Clair of Assisi Parish in Surprise, AZ where she was a Eucharistic minister, lector, CCD Teacher, and member of their Ladies Ministry. She was also active in many local groups and charities. Carmel throughout the years always maintained a special relationship with her first husband's family, the Voisine's. Survivors include her husband, Harvard of Surprise, AZ; children, Christine Malinowski and husband, Peter of Sabattus; Carol-Ann Galban and fiancé James Ahern of Redding, CT; Marc Voisine of Auburn; and Gerard C. Desjardins and wife Jennifer of Buxton; stepchildren, James Brassbridge of Sebago; Kelvin Brassbridge and wife Mary of Heartland; and Robert Brassbridge of Augusta; siblings, Muriel Rivard of Lisbon; Conrad Charest and wife Jeanne of Lewiston; Claire Dechene and husband Donald of Oxford and Ft. Dora, FL; Alta Bouchard and husband, Normand of Lisbon; and Alma Ouellette and husband, Paul of Auburn, Also surviving are 5 special sisters in law and their spouses as well as 7 grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren, 1 great grandson, and many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her first husband, Milferd H. Voisine in 1965; and her second husband, Gerard R. Desjardins in 1982. A Mass of Christian Burial honoring Carmel's life will be celebrated Wednesday, September 1st 11:00AM at Holy Cross Church in Lewiston. Committal prayers to follow at St. Peter's Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to visit Tuesday 2-4 and 7-9PM at the Pinette & Lynch Funeral Home 305 Alfred Plourde Parkway, Lewiston Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at www.lynchbrothers.com

Comments



“ Jerry - sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Tom Houlette - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Harv and all of Carmels family, Thank you for sharing such a very Blessed and Special woman with us. Carmel will be missed but never forgotten. She will always be in my heart. May God Bless you all and watch over each one of you along with Carmel. Welcome Home Carmel! Blessings, Connie and Gene

Connie and Gene Gaudio - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel, you will be missed dearly, You were a generous soul, my mom used to talk about you all the time. Rest in peace! There is no more pain where you are! You are now with "LOTS" of family

Joline Caron - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel, you will truly be missed in this life but in time we will all be together again.

Janet Bluhm - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ She was a great LADY and good friend. Always ready to help and was always concerned how you were doing. She will be missed. I was glad that I saw her just before you left Surprise. If there is anything I can do please call. God Bless

Betty & Bob Unverzagt - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ How do I count the ways of this gracious spirited example of a special creation portraying the fullness of being a part of the Body of Christ? I first met Carmel at St. Clare of Assisi in a spiritual surrounding and her light shown brightly. I recall sharing with her when Harv was so very sick a few years ago and it was then she shared with me the fear she had of his demise and that she had buried two husbands already. Through her tears, her eyes held the Light and they sparkled brightly. Through the years our paths crossed many times through our church ministries and each time no matter what the subject be her eyes radiated the brightness of the

Light. One day Carmel asked me if she could join my/our Red Hat chapter of which I founded and am the QM. How fortunate for us I said yes, she was a special jewel with those beautiful soft eyes sparkling always. Many laughs, much sharing, and many good times we all have had. Just before she became ill this last time in February our chapter spent a weekend in Palm Springs. On Sunday morning she, another lady, and myself went to mass at 6 AM at a "quaint" little church in Palm Springs. There was something there...a feeling each of us became very much aware of. It was a very old church ...the pews so old they creaked as they squeaked. When the three of us got outside we were choked up and shared our thought; so thankful we had the experience together of being touched so profoundly by our Lord! It was awesome. Just a couple days later Carmel's world was turned around and her sad final journey began. Just before she returned to the hospital this last time she and Harv were in my home and we had a lovely visit. She was hospitalized the next day. I spoke to her Sunday evening before she left Surprise and our parting words to each other were... see you just beyond the sunset....God Bless..... To know Carmel was to love her and she was well known. She kept her eyes focused on our Lord and was an inspiration to all. There truly is no number, no way to count the ways Carmel touched the lives of so many, To witness her faith is to become stronger and more aware of our journey; why we are here and where we are going. God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world so we may be happy with Him in the next. Dry your eyes dear family of Carmel's and put on a happy face....she is at peace. She is there. I never ever once heard her, under any circumstances and/or problematic situations, say a non-loving word or act out an unacceptable action towards anyone. She did not hide her light under the bushel even when the energy was fading her light did not dim.RIP, friend.

Donna L. Harrison - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel sat with my husband, Ken, while I was undergoing an operation. She sat with me while I was recuperating. Carmel had a very big heart. She will be sorely missed here in Surprise, AZ.

Ken & Marylynn Moore - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Harv: We are truly sorry for your loss of Carmel. She was a great lady and a dear friend. We know she is in a good place with our Lord. No more pain, only peace. God Bless you. Dorothy & Ben Chodyniewski

Dorothy & Ben Chodyniewski - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ To Family of Carmel Brassbridge My deepest sorrow for the loss of Carmel Carmel and I worked together on a few of St Clare's affairs (she took me under her wing to show me the ropes) Carmel was not only outgoing and friendly but the most compassionate and charitable person I have ever known and one I will remember for a long time to come I feel privileged at knowing her. My prayers are with you all. Pat Rakauskas

Pat Rakauskas - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel you will be dearly missed in my life. We had many good times together. Harvard our thoughts and prayer are with you and your family.

Brenda & Bill Maki - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel and I went to Holy Cross and Lewiston High School together. We good were friends. I have happy memories of things we did as young girls. I want to offer my sympathy to her husband, children, grandchildren, brother, and sisters. May her soul rest in peace with God.

Sister Rolande Giard - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Thought we traveled many different roads, we did share a lot of wonderful times together growing up. We were part of the fab-four of 1943 and you will be missed always. Our prayers are with your children, husband, brother and sisters may Jesus help them through these very difficult days ahead. My love to all of you. Rose

Rose D. Rogalla - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel & Harv, We feel so lucky to have been with you and sharing your lives with us these past 10 years. So loving & caring in all you have done with and for us. Carmel, you were one in a million and glad you are no longer suffering now that you are in heaven. Harv, you too are so special to us and so wonderful, loyal and brave in your caring for Carmel through these past several months. We too will miss our dear Carmel and pray that God will give you the strength and grace to see you thru this valley of tears.

Milluie & Ken Raske - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ To Harv, Carmel's children, grandchildren, and great grandchild -- as well as her huge and very close family and many friends -- I want to extend my deepest sympathies to all of you for your great loss! As a close friend to Carmel for 50 plus years, I am also grieving! I feel so privileged to have had her in my life as a dear friend all of this time. Being so close in age and coming from a similar background, we got to share so much while raising our children and later on moving into our "Golden Years". For the past 8 years, we even got to share our blood illnesses and would compare notes while trying to encourage each other. As the strong lady Carmel always was, she always seemed to do the right things while dealing with so many tragedies and hardships in her life. I always looked up to her for her always positive outlook on life. Throughout the years, Carmel and I graduated high school together. In fact, she had called me at the end of July of this year and mentioned she wanted to make our 50th reunion and jokingly said that we should go together and walk in "arm in arm" and, of course, have Harve accompany us! Within minutes of having said that, she was telling me that she was considering purchasing a bigger house but then brought up her idea of maybe stopping her daily blood transfusions and returning to Maine. She said she had thought of doing that to be with her family to say her goodp-byes. For the first time ever, she discussed her mortality with me, which left me not knowing what to say. She followed her comment to me by saying she no longer had "quality of life". It was then that I realized that she was nearing the end of her battle with her disease. At that point, we shared more contact information and our conversation was followed-up with a wonderful letter from Carmel --- a day or two later. After finding Carmel's picture and obituary in our local newspaper a few weeks later, I realized that her letter to me was more than likely her goodbye to me. We all know that Carmel is a wonderful place right now. Lord knows she deserves that! She also lived a model life as a dedicated Christian and believed very strongly in Jesus. As evidenced by her funeral etc., she also instilled in her children so many values and also her Christian beliefs. The last time we spoke on the phone, I reminded Carmel of how full a life she had lived and how many lives she had touched --- and was responsible for! We chuckled and she agreed with me. I could tell by her voice and the way she responded that she was more than ready to be with God. To you, Carmel, I say -- rest well and enjoy all the blessings that surround you which are your reward for living such a good life. Until we see each other again, please pray for all of us who have yet to meet our maker and pray that we are able to face this with all of your style and grace. You have always known how to do things the right way, Carmel, and even now, you have humbled me again as you thought of others before yourself by returning to Maine (your roots) -- when you were so ill -- to say your goodbyes to your family. God bless you, Carmel. I am going to miss you!
Love, Rolande

Rolande L. LaPointe - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



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Marvin and Connie Crump - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Dear Harve, I am sorry for your loss. Best regards Malcolm Poole

Malcolm Poole - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ My condolences to the family especially Chris, Carol Ann, Mark, & Tiger. I will always remember our days camping on Canton Lake. Mark Clark

Mark Clark - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel, our AZ neighbor and friend will always be in our hearts. Her concern, compassion, and faith were genuine. With one flip of her "card file" she made valuable health and domestic referrals. She was God's light wherever she stood. Her Christian love extended beyond her family and was appreciated and respected by all. Her hospitality, empathy, and spirit for life helped us through a moment of darkness. What a perfect guardian angel!!! Her advice and love sustained us while Carmel approached her difficulties quietly. She understood her illness and had faith in God's plan. Carmel, you "have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:6-8). You are in His peaceful arms. Harv and family, God Bless. We are with you now and for always. Know that you are not alone. We love you... Rich & Gail

Rich & Gail Janezich - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



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Ernest Morissette - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Harve, So sad to hear about your loss, I know no words can express or ease the feelings you now find yourself facing. My prayers are with you in this dark hour. Bob Walsh

Robert Walsh - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ I did not know Carmel for long but I enjoyed every moment I spent with her. She was an amazing woman filled with love and grace.

Dianne Diaz - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ I have known Carmel only for a very short time, about two years. I am a member of the Dynamic Dames of Surprise, AZ a Red Hat group. Carmel was a very special "Lady", always a smile for everyone. Such a caring and giving person. She will truly be missed. Another angel in heaven.

Dee Sauvageau - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ My friend Carmel how I will miss you. You are the most kind, loving person. We will all miss your smiling face. Pray for us and rejoice in your new home. Pray some day we will be together again. Chris

Chris Roux - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel and I grew up together and her sister Claire is married to my brother Don, so, Carmel and her family have been part of my whole life. When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange, may those memories of Carmel help us all during this sad time and bring us peace knowing her journey has just begun. Our Deepest Sympathy to you Harv and the whole family.

Carmen Caron - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Dear Harvard: We were so sorry when we got the call that Carmel had passed away. We remember many great times we had with Carmel over the years. We go back to high school, then reacquainted when I worked at the Teamsters. She was a dear lady. Words cannot express what loss you must be experiencing. Our heartfelt condolences to you and the children for this great loss. Joanne and Ray Therrien

Joanne and Ray Therrien - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel has always been a wonderful, caring person for everyone she has been associated with throughout her life. All the tribulations that she has gone through are now behind her. The heavenly home that she is in now is her eternal reward. To Harvard and the entire family, know that we are here for you whenever you need us. God grant Carmel eternal rest and to the family strength and comfort to go through these difficult times.

Paul & Alma Ouellette - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Dear Harv and family, We were very sorry to hear you had lost Carmel. She was a super person with a very kind heart. Though we have not been in touch often over the last few years we considered Carmel to be a good friend. May your sweet memories and the long list of tributes make your sorrow less. Our prayers are with you now, Our deepest sympathies, Ron & Madeleine

Ron & Madeleine Rabideau - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Didn't know Carmel very well, but enough to know what a great lady she was. I will truly miss her bright smile on Bunco nights. My thoughts and prayers are with Carmel's family. God bless.

Rita Jarvis - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ I will miss you very much. You were a very good and true friend. I was always amazed that you never forgot my birthday or anniversary no matter how far apart we were or how long since we actually spoke. We had wonderful memories from nursing school and Hawaii. Thanks for always being my fashion coordinator. I still remember some of the timeless tips you shared with me! Thanks for everything especially being a great friend. I think of you often. Say hi to my Mom. Dad, and brother up there. See you in the Stars K8SndD

Carol Bernard - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Carmel was the most sweetest, caring, and bundle of energy, Always a kind word and a wonderful positive outlook. She lived her christian life daily. May you rest in peace without pain. Will always remember our trip to Palm Springs and the sharing of mass with you and Donna. God bless another angel in heaven.

Marylinn Jarratt - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ HOPI PRAYER Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on the ripened grain. I am the gentle Autumn's rain, when you awaken in the morning hush. I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there, I did not die. Part of Carmel, is still with us. She is at peace in God's arms. Her job was done here on earth. Norene Mattas Red Hat Lady

Norene Mattas - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM



“ Harv so sorry to hear of CCamelle passing our taught and prays are with you and family at this time.

richard & sharon dufresne - August 28, 2010 at 03:57 PM