



Jeanne M. Hood

September 2, 1934 - August 21, 2020

LEWISTON- It is with profound sadness we announce the August 21st passing of Jeanne Hood, our loving and devoted mother, grandmother, G.G., aunt and friend to all whose lives she touched.

She left us while sleeping peacefully at her residence in Lewiston. She was two weeks shy of her 86th year of a wonderful life.

Born in Lewiston, the daughter of Berta (Mahlmann) and G. Mitchell Green, Jeanne was very active during her time at Lewiston High School, with cheerleading as a favorite activity along with participation in many service clubs and organizations. In 1952 she graduated from LHS and a day later married William J. Hood, and they brought up five wonderful children. William "Bill" predeceased her on February 8, 1985.

Jeanne began her career in school food service in August of 1973 as a part-time substitute. She worked her way through various positions until January 24, 1977 when she achieved the directorship of the Lewiston School Nutrition Program, a position she held for 21 years until her retirement on June 30, 1998. Jeanne introduced incredible changes to her school community as the Program provided nutritious meals for Lewiston students. In addition to the lunch meal, she instituted breakfast offerings that provided needed nourishment at the beginning of the school day. During her tenure, meal choices were expanded, fruit and vegetable bars were added, special barbecues were held, Grandparent's Day became a favorite and a summer feeding program for breakfast and lunch filled a much needed void. She expanded the Lewiston Junior High School's one room kitchen, which originally only served sandwiches, to a fully functioning kitchen that offered hot and cold menu options in a bright new cafeteria. She was extremely proud of her staff as they achieved extraordinary "No Violation" reviews over the years from the State and Federal inspectors.

Jeanne served as Secretary of The Maine School Food Service Association. She also held the position of Legislative Chair for ten years. She traveled to Washington on behalf of MSFSA working diligently on behalf of all Maine schools to improve and expand nutrition programs.

While as Director of Lewiston School Food Service, and after her retirement, Jeanne traveled throughout the state teaching all aspects of school nutrition, including sanitation,

in which she had achieved national certification. For all her efforts in school food service, Jeanne was honored in 1996 with the Katherine Musgrave Public Service Award which recognizes outstanding work in nutrition policy, education, or research.

Most of all, Jeanne adored being a mother and grandmother. She was lovingly known as the matriarch of her family. She leaves behind her daughters, Wanda (Thomas) Brown, Debra (Marcel) Laroche, and sons William "Jim" Hood, Jr. (Jolene McKay), Thomas Hood and Ronald Hood.

She was a proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren: Valerie (Trace) Ackley, Thomas (Michele) Brown, Carolyn (Brent) Cook, Jessica (Brian) Dufault, Alexandra Hood, Justin Labbe, Kelsie Fahey, Glenn Hood, Ryann Hood, Lauren (Tim) Desmarais, Jaclyn (Mike) Larrabee, Jillian (Derek) Lachance, Gretchen Hood and Matthew Hood.

She was also thrilled to have 15 great grandchildren: Hannah and Austin Cook; Katherine, twins William and Meghan Ackley; Ally Brown; Preston, Oliver and Milo Larrabee; Corbin, twins Avery and Talon Lachance; Mila Desmarais; and Grayson and Londyn McKay.

Jeanne is also survived by several nieces and nephews as well as friends Dorothy Dube and Helen Rankin.

She was predeceased by her husband Bill, her parents, her in-laws Beatrice and William V. Hood, sisters Constance (James) Bernard and twin Joanne (Joseph) Novick, infant brother Donald Green and sister-in-law Marion Hood.

Jeanne lived a full life and enjoyed spending time with her family, including many years vacationing at Pine Point where her entire family created many memorable moments together. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her, and will be forever in our hearts. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston in support of Youth Development Programs in care of Chris Shea, 62 Turner Street, Auburn, Maine 04210. Jeanne supported the YMCA youth programs in her husband's memory for over 35 years, providing new basketballs to all participants in the YMCA Bidy Basketball Program, nearly 3,000 youngsters in those 35 years. Jeanne was recognized for her generosity with the Y's Director's Choice Award in 2019.

Due to current restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, there will not be any visiting hours. There will be a private family funeral service at Riverside Cemetery at a later date.

Arrangements by the Pinette Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home 305 Alfred A. Plourde Parkway, Lewiston, Maine 784-4023. Online condolences and sharing of memories may be expressed at www.lynchbrothers.com .

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Riverside Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Tribute Wall

MA

“ 40 files added to the tribute wall



matthew - April 23 at 10:31 AM

CD

“ To all of Jeanne's Family,

I am just learning of your mom's passing now as I was in Ohio at the time and I want to extend my most sincere condolences to all of you. As School Secretary, I had the opportunity to work with Jeanne on many levels but what impressed me the most was the working relationship she had as Lewiston Nutrition Dir. with all who worked with her and for her. Not only did she work to better advance healthy meals in schools but she had the well-being of her staff as well.

You must be so proud of her accomplishments and the recognition of those accomplishments. I know that she will be greatly and lovingly missed by you, her family and her friends.

Claire Duplissis

Claire Duplissis - September 21, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Debbie - September 01, 2020 at 05:11 PM

JT

“ Jeanne set a very high standard for all school lunch programs in ME & the USA.

A truly great person who cared about making peoples lives better.

Jim Taylor - August 28, 2020 at 02:00 PM

DA

“ I am very sorry for your loss. I remember Jeanne's smile the most. Tom and I worked together for many years in the schools. I remember he spoke very proudly of his mom. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Deb Anctil - August 27, 2020 at 06:55 AM

KG

“ To the family of Jeanne;
You don't know me but back in the early to mid 90's I was a sales rep for what was then NorthCenter Foodservice (now retired after 30 years there) I called on Jeanne at the Dingley Building for 7 years every Thursday morning around 9 am. On the first Monday of every month, I sent her a bid list hoping to secure some business. I remember figuring out how to send her an electronic fax of produce prices around 7 am on Thursday which she loved.
She was such a pleasure to do business with. I admired her knowledge and learned much from her. To this day I will never forget her mantra; “You can't teach a hungry child.”
I had young children at the time, and that always stuck with me. I made sure that every morning they went to school with a good breakfast and if they weren't doing hot lunch at school, I packed them a healthy & nutritious lunch.
My boys were both honor students when they graduated from Edward Little High School. One graduated from college Summa cum Laude and the other Magna cum Laude.
My point is that having heard those words from Jeanne, I somehow have to believe that her words had an effect on my mindset regarding nutrition. My only regret that I never got a chance to tell her this story. I was hoping to run into her someday to tell her.
Anyway, she was a wonderful lady and did so much for school nutrition programs in this state. You must be so proud of her!
Rest In Peace Jeanne! You are gone but never will be forgotten!

Kerry Gould
Auburn

Kerry Gould - August 26, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Dufault - August 26, 2020 at 07:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jeanne M. Hood.*



August 26, 2020 at 06:32 PM

DM

“ *I grew up on a wonderful street where Jeanne was one of many “moms” of the neighborhood. We all played together, boys and girls, and all the moms looked out for every one of us. Wanda and I hung out a lot, and I always looked forward to Friday homemade pizza night! My thoughts are with her family. In loving memory, Denise*

Denise Mathieu - August 26, 2020 at 06:21 PM

JC

“ *Your mom was a special lady and left a beautiful legacy of love to each one of you. We are so sorry for your loss.*

Jane Collins - August 26, 2020 at 01:24 PM

ML

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Marcel L. Laroche - August 26, 2020 at 10:35 AM

MB

“ *Gram.... where do I begin?! You took me in as one of your own grandchildren. How I adored going to the beach each year, Watching the tennis matches with you, enjoying the food you cooked for us, etc. you were such a bright light! I am going to miss trips to the beach without you. I am going to miss my yearly birthday call, and I'm going to miss the annual pumpkin carving. I am going to miss everything about you. Thank you for loving me and my sons. Thank you for being the best Gram.*



Megan Boyd - August 26, 2020 at 10:30 AM

RB

“ *Bob and Geri Bowie send condolences to the family. We will miss our dear friend Jeanne.*

Robert Bowie - August 26, 2020 at 08:23 AM

BS

“ *I only knew Jeanne thru Ron and Facebook. Even though I never met her, I know she was a wonderful woman to have raised such a caring, loving, intelligent and respectable son, Ron. May she rest in peace happily and calmly.*



Barb and Rich Smerkar - August 25, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeanne M. Hood.*



August 25, 2020 at 03:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ron Hood - August 25, 2020 at 10:18 AM

LM

To the Hood family and especially for Tom and Jim Hood. There are no words to express my sadness and surprise when I opened the paper to see your mom's beautiful smile.....although thankful to see that she passed at home in her own bed.

I do recall her telling me one little story.....we got to talking about her living alone one day (this, I believe, was before Jim moved in) and she said, "when I go to bed, I leave my purse in plain sight, so if anyone wants to rob me, they can just take my purse and leave.....no need to tie me up or hit me over the head to get a few dollars"!!! Can't you just picture her doing that?

I consider myself fortunate to have worked with Jeanne for many years at Dingley. Jeanne is the most caring, genuine and positive person I know. No matter what the day brought, there was Jeanne with her warm smile.....and no matter how busy she was, she always had time to check in with you to see how your day was going. I will ALWAYS remember Jeanne with a smile on MY lips and hers. I love you Jeanne Hood. Rest well my friend!

Linda McLaughlin

Linda McLaughlin - August 27, 2020 at 03:35 PM