

MARY ELIZABETH (HAYDEN) ISHERWOOD
1947-2017

This amazing woman was born 15 September 1947 to Sarah and Elmer Hayden in North Hampton, MA. Her Coast Guard life started when she married the equally amazing David T. Isherwood on 17 July 1963. Don't trouble yourself with the math, she was 15 and they were married for nearly 54 years! David was in the Coast Guard for 27 years and the family moved from station to station until they settled in Oakdale in 1977. Mary worked at the Coast Guard Academy Exchange for 25 years where she made many special, life-long friends. After retiring, she joined Dr. Richard Benton's office for part-time work and retired (again) when he did. Mary was a straight shooter and claimed a Ph.D. from the School of Hard Knocks. She was a people person who treasured family, friends and cruising, and not necessarily in that order. Mary made friends wherever she went and her Christmas card list was a thing of beauty. In their retirement, Mary and David enjoyed cruising the oceans and the friendships they made on the high seas. Mary was such an avid reader that she supplied the Raymond Hill Library with books! Her very rich life included 3 children, Kevin (married to Sara) living in Seattle, Karin (married to Roxie) living in Wellington, New Zealand and Kristin Dombrowski living in Oakdale, CT. Mary, or Nonee as she was called, was blessed with grandchildren living nearby: Ashley, Nicholas, Madison and baby Geoffrey (d. 1995); and two step-grandchildren living in New Zealand, Felix and Sefton. She loved hanging out with her grandchildren, passing out sage advice and hosting family dinners. In July 2014 Mary began a heroic battle with lung cancer, metastatic to the brain, which she bravely fought until May 11, 2017. When diagnosed, Mary chose to do as many cruises as she could and declared they prolonged her life. She had a strong belief in God and that guided her throughout her illness. Those who know Mary won't be surprised to know that she had some clear wishes, one of them was that she did not want a viewing or funeral; instead there will be a celebration of her life. (taken from her obituary)

For those of us fortunate enough to have known Mary, we will always remember her quick wit, her fearlessness and her laugh. When it came to discussing any of life's many issues, Mary didn't hold anything back. But she could always be counted on to say a kind word or to give someone a pat on the back when they needed it ~ it always meant more coming from Mary because you knew it was "real".

A unique and wonderful woman, Mary lived life her way and on her terms ~ as her family stated, she was simply "AMAZING"! We were blessed to have known her and she will be greatly missed.