



## Mary Lou Span

December 18, 2021

### Mary Lou Span

With Christmas music playing, Mary Lou Span joined her husband, Miles Span, son, Shane Span, other family, and friends on December 18, 2021, just shy of her 89th birthday. At the home of daughter Barbara, son-in-law David and grandchildren Nick and Kyra, her last words were, "I love you." An outside-the-box thinker, she had passion for engaging people in learning, trying new things, bringing reading, art, and history alive; she also believed her purpose was to nurture and inspire volunteers. The daughter of a minister, she was educated at Geneva College, and Houghton, where she pushed boundaries producing radio plays and became a fierce Bridge player; she graduated as an English teacher and certified psychologist; later owned a retail furniture business, nursing & home health agency employing 150, got her administrator's license and developed a nursing home. She journeyed through Hungary when the iron curtain fell, Oberammergau to see the Passion Play, and Switzerland to connect with relatives on the family tree. But her lifelong love was serving the community: Gateway School Board, Home Rule Gov't Study Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Eastern Area Special Schools Authority, Greater Pittsburgh YWCA, Friends of Monroeville Public Library, Senior Center Prime Timers, Monroeville Arts Council and Monroeville Historical Society. She sponsored Eagle Scouts, collaborated with wonderful volunteers at the Murrysville Historical Society, read at Library story hours, worked with the Y and others to serve at-risk teenagers and displaced

women, helped organize arts festivals, musical shows and the Heritage Festival and adopted rescue dogs who became great companions. She was the other half of Monroeville's Span duo, and although extremely independent, supported Miles Span's efforts behind the scenes to grow youth sports, parks, the library, and Bel Air public pool. A few lessons she leaves for us: Even simple acts like carrying groceries or sharing a conversation with an elderly person require so little effort but mean so much; A single hour of volunteering is still valuable if that's all the time you can give; Exploring your hometown is an adventure if you try the things it has to offer; Learn about a 'durable medical power of attorney' before it's too late to help your loved ones; If you donate your body to science, check in advance that the humanity gifts registry has an electronic copy of the record because paper doesn't cut it anymore. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Sad Tails of PA, who rescued her beloved dog, or Monroeville Historical Society in support of the Heritage Festival. Special thanks to Corl Funeral Chapel for making her final trip home possible. Mary Lou's friends, family and neighbors will swap stories at Monroeville's Historical McGinley House on June 5 on her way home.

# Previous Events

## Private Gathering

JUN 5.

McGinley House

# Tribute Wall

EG

“ Mrs. Span was a classic person. I lived in Alpine Village and was friends with her son Shane. Shane was involved in a car accident that I could have been involved in, but decided not to go. Shane was injured in the car accident and was never fully healthy from that point on. I cannot remember when he died, but he died young. Mrs. Span was a "cool mom". She was always happy for us kids to play in her home. I found her very attractive, and like being around her. Mrs. Span's husband was the "famous" Miles Span, who everyone in the Village called "Uncle Miles". He sponsored a baseball team in our plan of houses called the "Spans". He sent us to training camp in Florida and we were the first team "A" little league team in Monroeville history to 14 - 0, and won the championship, 2 games to 1. Everyone loved the Spans. What a great person to have known.

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**Edward Graham** - January 14, 2023 at 03:35 PM

DC

“ I remember growing up in Alpine Village. Mrs. Span was one of my favorite persons. She always was so kind and interesting to talk and listen. My Mom and Dad were great friends of both Mr. and Mrs. Span. I'd look forward to their visits. Many happy memories of the entire family ❤️

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**Donna Bier Chaffins** - May 29, 2022 at 07:46 AM