



Jill M. McPhee

November 4, 1954 - January 8, 2021

HARVARD - Jill M. (Kaufman) McPhee, 66, of Harvard passed away peacefully on Friday afternoon, January 8, 2021, at her residence in the Golden Pond Assisted Living facility in Hopkinton.

Jill was born in Pittsburgh, PA on November 4, 1954, a daughter of the late Col. Lee S. and Belle (Schwartz) Kaufman, and grew up in France and Parsippany, NJ. In 1975, she earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, followed by a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During her career, Jill worked as a nuclear engineer at Brookhaven Laboratory, a computer engineer at Digital and Compaq, and a submarine sonar technician for the U.S. Navy.

A resident of Harvard for 40 years, Jill was known to her friends and family as a brilliant and quirky woman. She played the French horn in a community orchestra and ran the New York Marathon. Glamour Magazine featured her as one of their "Outstanding Working Women" of 1979. At 4 feet 10 inches tall, her small stature hid her big personality. Jill enjoyed gardening, attending book club meetings, and watching classic movies. Most of all, she was a loving mother who devoted her life to spending time with her two children.

She leaves her daughter, Victoria B. McPhee of New York City; her son, James L. McPhee of Beverly; two sisters, Patricia Kaufman of Greece, and

Teresa Kaufman of France; and her former husband James L McPhee, Jr. of Tabernash, CO.

A graveside service will be in the Bellevue Cemetery in Harvard on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11AM.

Face coverings will be required and social distance practices respected.

A memorial service will be held later in the year.

Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of the Harvard Council on Aging. Please make checks payable to Friends of The Harvard COA and mail to PO Box 474, Harvard, MA 01451.

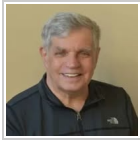
A recording of Jill's service can be found at the link below: <https://my.gather.app/remember/jill-mcphee>

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Cemetery

Still River Road
Harvard, MA 01451

Tribute Wall



“ I am heart-broken to have found this notice. Jill McQuee Kaufman and I were best friends for our first three years of college at Rennselear. She was smart, fun, easy-tempered and a good person. We met the first week at college (we were two of the youngest freshmen at RPI that year) and discovered we had similar senses of humor; we were always laughing. We visited each other at our homes in Parsippany and Queens. Sophomore and Junior years she shared a 4 bdrm dorm unit with Andrea, Carmen and Linda, and I shared a nearby unit with 3 guy friends and they were great years. But we lost touch and I hadn't seen or heard from her in 48 years. What memories I have of her! - Gordon Michaels, 4-12-2023

Gordon Michaels - April 12, 2023 at 11:47 AM

KD

“ I, too, remember Jill toting the French horn to play in the PHS band. She was so bright, even then you could tell she would accomplish a great deal. We graduated from PHS in 1971 . So very sorry for the loss of Jill.

karen dichiaro - January 15, 2021 at 02:58 PM

CM

“ We enjoyed girl time with your mom , and family time at Christmas at The Andrew's. Jill was a very special woman.

Cheryl McLaughlin - January 14, 2021 at 06:46 PM

BP

“ We spent lots of pleasant times together as parents of two kids in the same grades in the same Harvard schools. She was very nice and fun. So sorry for your loss Victoria and Jim.

Bruce Papazian

Bruce Papazian - January 14, 2021 at 03:47 PM

LL

“ I am so sorry to hear about Jill's passing. We were friends and across the street neighbors in Parsippany. I'm not surprised by her accomplishments. She was so smart. I can still picture her lugging that gigantic french horn home from school!
My condolences to her family and to my long ago friend, Terry.

Linda Laib - January 14, 2021 at 02:18 PM

TK

Love you Linda. Thanks for thinking of Jill at this sad time. And I hope we can all get together again sometime in the near or distant future, you, me, Esther & Ruth... and celebrate Jill's very existence.

Teresa Kaufman - January 15, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *Healing Tears - Lavender and White* was purchased for the family of Jill M. McPhee.



January 14, 2021 at 06:19 AM

CP

“ *Jill was a special friend and a wonderful neighbor. I will never forget all the fun times we had together at the Cape and in Harvard. She was a caring friend and a truly devoted mother to her two children Vickie and Jimmy. My deepest sympathy to Vickie and Jimmy at this very sad time.*

Love Carole Perini

Carole Perini - January 13, 2021 at 12:52 PM

TK

My sister Jill was not only a supportive and formidable mother to your children, Victoria and Jimmy, she was also a bit of a mother and guiding light to me, as well. I feel a bit orphaned now. Jill, I will miss you so much.

Teresa Kaufman - January 14, 2021 at 05:56 AM

PK

Jill was a straight arrow - I could always trust her to tell the truth as she saw it even if we didn't always agree. She never gossiped and I never knew her to say anything bad about anyone - she considered that illogical and a waste of energy.

Her love for her children was boundless

And if anyone wants to know what the M stands for:

*When Jill was a baby, our parents made up a nonsense song that went:
Jilly McQueesala Jilly McQua Jilly Jilly Jilly Jilly Jilly*

*When Jill was five or six our family returned from living abroad and passport control wanted the full names of us three girls.
Teresa was Teresa Lynn, I was Patricia Louise and poor Jill was just plain Jill. She evidently felt this made her 'less than' and was sobbing incontrolably when my father said, "This is my youngest daughter, Jill McQueen Kaufman.*

We all thought it a riot that she later became Jill McQueen McPhee.

Pat Kaufman - January 14, 2021 at 11:10 AM

GE

“ When Jill came into my life over 40 years ago, her intellect made her seem so self-assured and her smile simply captured my heart. The differences between how we saw the world seemed huge, but the depth with which she loved my family - my brother, my boys, and her children humbled me.
Her free spirit continues to vibrate around us.

Geraldine - January 13, 2021 at 10:10 AM

TK

Thankyou Geraldine for such a true and sensitive observation of Jill's genuine strength of consideration and love of others. She was a free spirit and glowed from within.

Teresa Kaufman - January 15, 2021 at 11:02 AM

KM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kathleen McPhee - January 13, 2021 at 09:21 AM

TK

Wow Kathleen, such a splendid photograph of Jill. Thank you so much for this.

Teresa Kaufman - January 15, 2021 at 10:46 AM

TK

Kathleen, Can you please send to my email address this wonderful image of Jill and Vicky ? I would so much love to have this photograph in my keepsakes. Thank you, Terry

Teresa Kaufman - January 15, 2021 at 10:52 AM

PK

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Pat Kaufman - January 13, 2021 at 08:27 AM

VE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Valerie Edwards - January 12, 2021 at 05:15 PM

VE

“ <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/02/11/archives/long-island-weekly-she-has-the-stature-for-nuclear-research.html?searchResultPosition=3>

Valerie Edwards - January 12, 2021 at 05:11 PM

SW

“ My husband, Rick and I met Jill at Golden Pond, where my sister is also a resident.
Every Sunday, we always tried to get Jill to smile, and asked her to join us in our walks about the unit. I am very sorry for your loss. I will miss seeing Jill, as she had become one of my Golden Pond "pals".

Sandy Wallis

Sandra C Wallis - January 12, 2021 at 05:11 PM