



Lilian M. "Lili" (Hatalski) Johnston

August 2, 1950 - August 18, 2022

AYER; Lilian M. "Lili" (Hatalski) Johnston, 72, of Ayer, died Thursday, August 18, 2022, at Westford House after an illness.

Lili was born in Vienna, Austria, on August 2, 1950, the daughter of John K. and Hermine T. (Haberfekiner) Hatalski, Jr. Lili came to Ayer when her father was stationed at Ft. Devens, where she found her lifelong home.

She was predeceased by her husband, Kevin R. Johnston, who died in May 2001. Kevin was the love of her life, as she was his. Lili is survived by her sister-in-law, Donna Laggis, and her husband, Nick, of Ayer; her sister-in-law, JoAnn Johnston, of Fitchburg; and her longtime dear friends, Kathy Daly and Doreen Quintiliani of Shirley. She also leaves three nieces Jennifer Robinson, Kristen Pedroli Pierce, and Tahmi Johnston, a great niece Alexa Robinson and three great nephews Tyler Robinson, Nick Pedroli, and Matt Pedroli.

Lili attended Ayer High School and UMass Lowell, and she lived her passion for more than three decades as a first-grade teacher in the Ayer Public School system. Known as "Mrs. J", she is fondly remembered by many students and their parents.

Lili loved people and was at her best when around them, making friends wherever she went. Lili greatly enjoyed her Friday night pizza and game

nights with her sister-in-law JoAnn and niece Tahmi. Lili was also an avid reader, sharing this passion with her book club friends and her great niece and nephews.

Lili also enjoyed traveling and was fluent in German. She often visited her aunt and grandmother in Vienna and spent many years vacationing in Aruba and Lake Winnepesaukee with her husband and their family. She also took trips to Ogunquit and the Cape where she enjoyed special times with friends. Always ready to help when needed, Lili was a volunteer at heart; her years working at the “Shop for Your Parents” program brought her much joy. Her small acts of kindness knew no bounds, touching the lives of many who knew her.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Anthony’s Church, 14 Phoenix Street, Shirley. Burial will follow at The Village Cemetery, Shirley.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, (Rte. 2A) Ayer is assisting the family with arrangements.

For additional information or to post an online condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ayer Shirley Education Foundation or to the Alzheimer’s Disease Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA, 02452.

Cemetery Details

Village Cemetery

Harvard Road
Shirley, MA

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

AUG 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church
14 Phoenix Street
Shirley, MA 01464

Tribute Wall

JM

“ To know Lili was to love her. She was a consummate, caring teacher, a devoted wife and daughter, a loyal, supportive friend. I was honored to be her colleague and her friend. Lili will be sorely missed!
Jean Mullen

Jean Mullen - August 24, 2022 at 02:28 PM

DT

“ Donna Thompson purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Lilian M. "Lili" (Hatalski) Johnston.



Donna Thompson - August 23, 2022 at 12:51 PM

JO

“ Sweet Lili....one of the kindest women I've known in my life. My sincere condolences to her family and Kathy & Doreen. Clearly, the vibes she put out came back to her in the form of caring family & friends. Rest in peace, Lili. I hope you are wrapped in your husbands waiting arms.

Joan - August 22, 2022 at 05:05 PM

CW

“ Colleen, Peter and Sarah White purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Lilian M. "Lili" (Hatalski) Johnston.



Colleen, Peter and Sarah White - August 22, 2022 at 03:39 PM

DS

“ I am sad that another classmate has gone too soon. Lili, I will remember your beautiful smile & your sweet way. My condolences to all Lili's family.

Denise Stepleton - August 21, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ Lavender & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Lilian M. "Lili" (Hatalski) Johnston.



August 21, 2022 at 05:00 PM

SW

“ Mrs. J was a wonderful teacher and truly wanted to see all the kids she taught succeed. When I was in her class, she was always very kind and patient when working with me. I will forever appreciate that. She was what every teacher, every person, should strive to be. I'm saddened to hear of her passing and she will be dearly missed.
-Sarah White

Sarah White - August 20, 2022 at 02:27 PM

BC

“ When I was younger, I felt very different from the other children. But Mrs. J, she saw a uniqueness in me. The comfort she gave helping me with math and other subjects I will never forget. After leaving the school system, still crossing by her I'd wave and she'd remember me all these years. You will forever be my inspiration as to follow my dreams. You will be deeply missed. - Brianna Clark-Milligan

brianna clark-milligan - August 19, 2022 at 10:58 PM

JF

“ I enjoyed working with Lili for many years at Page Hilltop. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed 🙏

janice france - August 19, 2022 at 04:49 PM

NK

“ So sorry to hear about Lilli's passing. I was good friends with her mother, and she was the most wonderful, loving teacher to our children in school. A truly lovely person. May she rest in peace

Nargaret and Kevin Kidder - August 18, 2022 at 08:15 PM

MC

So sorry to hear of Lilli's passing....We graduated Ayer High class of 68....Lilli was always so kind and funny....She's with Kevin now.....

Marianne Coalter - August 19, 2022 at 01:59 PM

RO

I worked with Lili in Ayer. She was a great teacher and a very kind person.

rob - August 19, 2022 at 03:57 PM

KK

So sorry to hear of Lili's passing, she was a wonderful teacher and person. Over the years we had so e wonderful conversations. She was a wonderful daughter, taking such great care of her mom. May she rest in peace.

Kathy and Kenney Kidder - August 19, 2022 at 04:54 PM

MH

You were a great friend and neighbor Lili, I'll miss you.

Mandi Hoague - August 24, 2022 at 07:38 PM