



Lola Elizabeth Harty

September 2, 1947 - May 7, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Lola Elizabeth Harty

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Lola Elizabeth Harty of Murphysboro, IL, was born on September 2, 1947, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, to June Allan (Howell) and Charles Vernon Higgs. She passed away on May 7, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Lola graduated from Murphysboro Township High School in 1965. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Master's Degree in Special Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

She married Robert Joseph Morgan on September 30, 1967, and they had two children, Amy Elizabeth and Robert Andrew. Bobby died in 1979. On April 8, 1988, she married Michael L. Harty and welcomed his daughters, Sarah and Emma, into her family.

Lola is survived by her sisters, Mary Anna Worthen of Murphysboro; Ruth Fox (Jim) of Knoxville, TN; and Katy McDonough of Elmhurst, IL. Her children also survive her: Amy Morgan-Falaster (Rick) of Murphysboro, IL, and Andy Morgan (Connie) of Bloomington, IL; her stepdaughters: Sarah Willems of Centennial, CO, and Emma Harty (Troy Woytek) of St. Louis, MO; and her in-laws: Kathi Sullivan, Don Morgan, Jane Kranz, Pat Bower, and Mary Strothmann all from Murphysboro, IL.

Her grandchildren called her the "Cool Grandma". Her grandchildren include: Morgan Lyerla (Paige Newfarmer) and Tony Lyerla (Gaby Ramos) of Murphysboro; Molly Bax (Jackson) of Chicago; and Ruthie Morgan of Bloomington, IL. Her step-grandchildren include Katherine, Carter, and Jack Willems of Centennial, CO; Felicity, Michael, Caleb, and Faye Woytek of St. Louis, MO. Lola is survived by numerous granddogs that she loved as well. She is also fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews, notably Ashley Abramson (Trevor) of Fulshear, TX.

Lola was preceded in death by her father (1951), mother (2000), stepfather Carl Worthen (1981), first husband, Bobby Morgan (1979), husband, Mike Harty (2008), brother, Chuck Higgs (2017), stepsister, Pauline Puttmann (2021), and numerous dogs, especially her beloved beagle, Daisy (2024).

After earning her Master's degree, Lola devoted her career to advocating for the marginalized, especially those facing physical or mental challenges and those experiencing financial, linguistic, or cultural barriers. She worked at Tri-County Special Education in Murphysboro and the Carbondale Women's Center and retired from the Jackson County Health Department. In retirement, she continued serving her community as a Spanish translator and as a board member at Su Casa Migrant Head Start.

Lola cherished time with her many close friends and was known for her

vibrant spirit and sense of fun—she was always the life of the party. She loved music, dogs, reading, and a good time. She shared a particularly close friendship with David Horn of Murphysboro, who called her L.B. Together, they watched countless St. Louis Cardinals games and took many memorable trips.

A celebration of life will be held in early summer 2025.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Andy and Amy, so sorry to hear of Lola's passing. She was a treasure to work with at JCHD. She taught me so much. She was able to help so many people. She will be sorely missed.

Karen Brown - May 13, 2025 at 07:42 PM

KS

“ Dear Andy, and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Your friends at ISU are holding you in our hearts.

Katy Strzepek - May 12, 2025 at 02:03 PM

LH

“ I just heard about LOLA'S PASSING i am in shock. So many memories when we were in Junior high school school. SHE WAS A VERY SPECIAL LADY Never be another Lola! just a fun loving lady who enjoyed life and her family and friends My prayers & condolences to her family and friends. Linda Taylor (Heape)

Linda Heape - May 09, 2025 at 09:35 PM

MR

“ Many, many great memories from high school. I dated Lola for a while in my freshman year and have many fond memories of those times. I will cherish those memories. RIP dear lady.

Michael Richmond - May 09, 2025 at 11:39 AM

CG

“ Lola was such a joy to work with at JCHD and helped sooo many people!!! Always loved her laugh, smile and sense of humor. She will definitely be missed! Hugs and prayers to you Amy and Andy and the rest of the family 💜🙏💜. She was always so proud of her family!

Christy Guy - May 09, 2025 at 10:03 AM

CH

“ Amy, family:
Prayers and thoughts are with you all,
May God hold you in his arms and lay his hands lightly upon your heart. Craig, Anita

Craig Harris - May 09, 2025 at 10:01 AM

JS

“ Lola and I were neighbors on Spruce St. Along with Harry C., Bert H. Bob P. Rick G., Lola's brother Chuck, Ronnie H. , and other neighborhood friends. My best to her family, John Sullivan, Class of 1965.

John Sullivan - May 09, 2025 at 08:42 AM

NT

“ I'm so sorry for your loss of this lovely lady, I worked with Lola at The Women Center. She was so very nice and so cool made me laugh. She also attended my wedding reception even before I met you Amy. My heart ache for you. 🙏🥹

Nikki Tomlinson - May 08, 2025 at 07:46 PM