



Martha M. Dion Ward

May 1, 1914 - September 11, 2008

Martha St Roch Dion Ward, age 94, passed away quietly after a brief illness on Sept. 11. Until that time she had lived independently in her own home, a fact of which she was very proud. She was born in St. Hyacinthe, Province Quebec, Canada in 1914, the second of four children. She was predeceased by her brother Romeo St. Roch when he was a young man and her two younger sisters Carmen Corneau, of Norwich CT and Katy TX and Jeanne Lazure, of St. Hyacinthe PQ, Canada, who passed away just this past year. She graduated from Prince Academy and moved to the United States when she married "her little American boy," Norbert J. Dion, who was a Federal Mediator at the time of his death in 1970. They made their home in the Harford area, as did Mr. Dion's two brothers, Vincent and Francis and two sisters, Margaret Doucet and Claire Cashman, all of whom predeceased her. There were always lots of warm, fun family gatherings. After Mr. Dion's death Martha married Hugh F. Ward of Manchester, CT. They spent their retirement years driving cross country and through the northwestern section of Canada where her father had been a conductor on the Trans Canadian railway. It was one of her proudest achievements because in her younger years she was terrified to drive and didn't learn until she was 49 years old. Mr. Ward passed away in 1981. Martha had three children with her first husband. Her middle son, Robert Dion predeceased her in 1990. She leaves behind a loving family who will miss her deeply, including her son Richard Dion, and his wife Pamela of Simsbury and her daughter, Jacqueline Curry and her husband, Steve of

Niantic. In her later years her grandchildren and then her great-grandchildren were the love of her life. They include Aimee David Romero and their twins, Michael and Samantha of Gilroy, CA; Suzanne Adam Leighton and their daughters, Abigail and Elizabeth of Simsbury, CT; Michael Michelle Dion and their children, Michael and Madison of East Haven, CT; Kerri John Bodrey and their daughter, Alyssa of Cordele, GA; Christine Curry of Yorktown Heights, NY; and Stephen Curry of Colonial Beach, VA. and her two "adopted" grandchildren, JP and Maggie Cassidy of West Hartford. During her life time she used her skills as a seamstress to make original articles of clothing for herself, family and friends and made numerous costumes for dance recitals and school plays throughout the years. She was a member of the IAM Retirees in East Hartford, District 26 and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 102 of Manchester. She spent a good deal of her time playing the organ for pleasure and was a member of the "Organizer" organ club of West Hartford. She was a faithful parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford for 41 years. Funeral services will be Monday departing the Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford at 9:30 am with the celebration of her Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Friends and family may call from 4 pm to 6 pm on Sunday at the funeral home. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Thomas the Apostle Church 872 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT 06119. On line expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ Pat, It has been quite awhile since I have seen your dad but I do remember him as being very friendly. Considering I was only his laundry man for a short time I did not know him well. We did talk about you, but I do not remember much and you are probably lucky. Your dad was a good man and as all fathers, he will be missed by many. God Bless##imported-begin##Frank Burgess##imported-end##

November 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jackie , Richard and families,
Nous sommes profondément attristés par le départ de Tante Marthe. Je garderai toujours son merveilleux sourire en mémoire....Ne pouvant malheureusement être présents , nous vous envoyons tout notre amour!##imported-begin##Diane Lazure##imported-end##

September 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Je viens d'apprendre la triste nouvelle. Je veux offrir à Jacqueline et Richard ainsi qu'à toute leur famille, mes plus sincères condoléances. Je pense beaucoup à vous. Tante Marthe restera dans mon coeur...et je sais qu'elle est maintenant auprès de maman Jeanne.##imported-begin##Christiane Lazure##imported-end##

September 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *What I loved and will miss most about Grandma Ward was that she never met a stranger. She took me in from the day Richard married my mother and treated me as one of her own. My husband John still talks about dancing with her at Sue and Adam's wedding. I take comfort in knowing she's in heaven right now, getting to know everyone on a first name basis.##imported-begin##Kari Petersen Bodrey##imported-end##*

September 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thoughts of Aunt Martha bring back infrequent, but very special youthful memories of being allowed to clamber onto the bench in front of her organ, happily encouraged to fiddle with keys and knobs. Whether faced with noisy chords, or overly-rambunctious childhood activity, Aunt Martha seemed to respond with a warm smile and a squeeze around the shoulders. Whenever visiting her house, I always felt that it was okay to just be a kid. That takes a very special love and kindness, which is what I will always remember of Aunt Martha.##imported-begin##Maeve Dion##imported-end##*

September 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I had the distinct honor and privilege for caring for Mrs. Ward as her primary care physician. She was a sweet woman who never complained and maintained her dignity as her health waned. She will be missed.##imported-begin##Stanley A Glassman, M.D.##imported-end##*

September 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My Sundays will never be the same but you have your freedom now. I miss you so much, you are always in my heart. I love you. We all love you.##imported-begin##Aimee Romero##imported-end##*

September 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM