



Mabel L. Cullen

April 30, 1925 - September 28, 2016

DELMAR- Mabel L. Cullen, “Mabs,” 91, of Delmar, died Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at her home in Delmar.

She was born April 30, 1925, in London, England, a daughter of the late James Matthew Leitch and Mabel Leitch (Aylmore) Buttwell.

During World War II she had a classified job with the British Forces and met the love of her life, Richard E. Cullen, an American soldier serving in the war. They were married in April 1945, once the war ended. In her younger days she worked as a legal secretary before leaving the job to raise her family.

Later in life she decided to return to school and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Salisbury State and later earned her Master’s from the University of Maryland. With her degree in hand, she started a second career as a social worker and worked several years at Deer’s Head Hospital, Nutrisystem and Wicomico County.

She was a long-time, active member of Holy Redeemer and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Churches, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, Eucharistic Minister, Choir Director and was a member of the Diocesan choir of Wilmington.

She enjoyed the arts and was a trained classical singer and dancer. Her true passion was her involvement with the Community Players of Salisbury, where she was past president among other things. Always serving her community, Mabs also volunteered at St. Francis de Sales School and PRMC and she served on the Wicomico County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board for

6 years.

She is survived by her beloved family, a son Bob Cullen of Millwood, Virginia (wife Phyllis, children Kimberly (Pete) of England, Craig (Traci) of Denver and Eric of Chicago); a daughter, Catherine Cullen of Annapolis (husband Martin, children Cullen (Catherine) of Woodbine, Maryland, Nicholas of San Diego and Benjamin of Denver); and a son Christopher Cullen of Salisbury (wife Melissa, son Bradley of Salisbury); and four great grandchildren, Lenore, Lexi, Helix and Arkin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Richard E. Cullen, who passed in 1993 and a grandson, Matthew Cullen, who passed in 1991.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 at Short Funeral Home in Delmar. The following day, Monday, October 3, 2016, a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Delmar. Interment will follow at St. Stephen's Cemetery in Delmar. Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Maryland, 10626 York Road Suite A, Cockeysville, MD 21030, or by visiting <https://www.cff.org/Maryland/> .

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home, Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Stephen's Cemetery

State Street
Delmar, DE 19940

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **2**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Service

OCT **3**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Bi-State Blvd. & Chestnut Street
Delmar, MD

Tribute Wall

KP

“ I am soo sory to hear about your Mom. I always loved hearing her talk . She was always very chipper and smiling. I am grateful for the friendship she has always given to my Mom, especially in the last few years. I know she is at peace. My prayers are with you ball!

Kathy Thornton

kathy paulin - October 08, 2016 at 10:57 AM

CC

Thank you Kathy. I know Mom and Dad always valued your parents friendship. Mom enjoyed her daily chats with your Mom. You Mom called me and we had a nice chat and a bit of a cry together. I know she will miss her too. Peace, Cathy

Cathy Cullen - October 14, 2016 at 04:59 PM

TC

“ I had the honor of serving as Mrs. Cullen's Eucharistic Minister during the last year-and-a-half of her life and genuinely enjoyed our conversations as well as her gentle humor and recollections of Delmar/Salisbury history.

My sons and grandsons were visiting from Sept. 30 through October 4 and I regret being unable to attend the viewing and Mass and expressing my condolences to Mrs. Cullen's family. Please accept my deepest sympathy - I will miss my Sunday morning visits with your mother.

Trudy Collins

Trudy Collins - October 06, 2016 at 03:40 PM

CC

Thank you Trudy. I know she enjoyed your visits on Sundays.
Catherine Cullen

Catherine Cullen - October 08, 2016 at 09:30 AM

MB

“ *I remember when we traveled to Salisbury State University to meet with the conflict mediation people. On the way back, we had the honor to meet with your mother and enjoy some Eastern shore hospitality. A very fine woman. She will certainly be missed. Sharon and I send our sympathy to you and your family on your loss.*

Marshall Botkin - October 03, 2016 at 06:51 PM

MC

Thank you for sharing! Yes, Mom was amazing and will be missed by all!

Melissa Cullen - October 04, 2016 at 09:51 AM

CC

Yes, Marshall, she enjoyed that visit with you and Nina from the Ukraine. Nina's gift is still in the living room to this day!

Catherine Cullen - October 08, 2016 at 09:32 AM