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12-12-2019

## Mary W. Comerford



Mary W. Comerford, 76, of Pompano Beach, Florida, and formerly of Grinnell, Iowa, died on Monday, December 2, 2019, at her home.

A Memorial Mass has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, January 4, 2020, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Ross Epping officiating. Interment will follow at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. A reception will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church following the burial.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami or to Doctors Without Borders both for Haiti and mailed

in care of Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Mary was born on December 16, 1942, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the daughter of Thomas and Gertrude Van Niewaal Sawyers. She graduated from Grinnell High School, 1961. On August 11, 1962, she was united in marriage with Thomas M. Comerford, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell. A union of 57 years! She supported her husband financially while he completed his college and graduate studies. In 1972, they moved to Miami, Florida, where Mary completed her education with a BA in Anthropology at Florida International University and a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Miami where she worked at the School of Medicine for 40 years doing dermatological and AIDS research, writing articles, performing statistical analyses, and teaching statistics.

Mary was a voracious reader with a large library of books; especially murder mysteries and scientific books. She enjoyed raising her three children, playing games with her three grandchildren and going to their activities, traveling to many U.S. cities, to England, to Ireland and cruising to Caribbean Islands. She was also a University of Miami fan and attended many baseball and football games. Also, she was a life-long Chicago Cubs fan attending many games at Wrigley Field and other National League cities.

Survivors include her husband Tom; son, Christopher and daughter-in-law, Kellie, of Pompano Beach, Florida; daughter Nancy Pado and her husband, Mike, and granddaughter Leanne Marie of Orlando, Florida; son, Sam, his wife, Yornet, grandson, Aiden Pierce and granddaughter, Madison Marie of Miami Shores, Florida; and her brother, Dr. John Sawyers, his wife Julie and their children, Matthew, Jenny and Ross. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother-in-law, William Comerford.