



## Dixie Lee Fralic

September 29, 1956 - May 15, 2015

Proverbs 31 describes a virtuous woman as one who cares for her family without thought, loves her husband dearly, is eager to work, always has a joyful spirit and willingness to help others, and is full of wisdom beyond her years. Dixie Fralic lived those words daily, and her faith was her foundation for life.

Dixie Lee Fralic, aged 58 of Hart, formerly of Manistee passed away on Friday, May 15 at her home surrounded by her family after a hard fought fight with cancer. She won the battle and now celebrates with her savior in heaven.

Dixie was born on September 29, 1956 in Frankfort, the daughter of Robert and Norma (Soper) Schimke, and graduated from Onekema High School with the class of 1974. On February 22, 1975 she married the love of her life, Rusty Fralic at the Irons Union Church officiated by her uncle Rev. Fred Soper. They have celebrated 40 years, hand in hand by each other's side.

Dixie loved her family, her husband, her children, and especially her precious grandchildren. She had a playful and carefree attitude and faced every task with amazing energy. Her great sense of humor and infectious smile would light up a room. She was affectionately known as "Miss Bedazzle" by the staff at MD Anderson Cancer Center because of the way she faced her treatments with smiles and dance.

Dixie developed a reputation for her cleaning habits, dusting, polishing, and catching every nook and cranny, making sure everything shined. She enjoyed working outdoors gardening, weeding the flower beds, and mowing the lawn with the same vigor. She was never shy with home improvement, working side by side with Rusty as they built their new home. Dixie was a free spirit and loved traveling the open road with Rusty on their motorcycles often venturing out west, sometimes on her own bike, and sometimes just enjoying riding with Rusty so she could hold him tight and share their thoughts together as they rode.

Dixie loved being a Mom to her children and was blessed to carry the name of Grandma. An encourager, she often looked for ways to support her children in their lives, careers, and their families. But her greatest love was for Rusty. Whether encouraging him with notes in his briefcase, lifting him up through the rough times, driving halfway to the airport to greet him as he returned from a business trip, filling their home with memories and wonderful smells of baking, or simply holding his hand while they walked, she defined the meaning of true love and admiration.

Dixie's faith was her foundation, which helped her be a blessing to many throughout her fight with cancer. When living in Manistee, she and Rusty served as youth leaders in their church, assisted with youth soccer, and recently while living in Texas, helped prepare and serve meals for the ARK Church Thanksgiving meal outreach feeding thousands. Dixie studied the scriptures and kept a daily devotional journal. She would share the verses with friends and write words of encouragement to others walking the journey of cancer treatments hoping to be a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day. It was her hope and prayer to be a leader in finding a cure by sharing her experiences and helping shine the spotlight on the research and progress being made.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Dixie's faith, love, encouragement, grace, and courage will live in the hearts she touched forever.

Dixie was preceded in death by her father Robert Schimke, her father-in-law Dale Fralic, her daughter-in-law Melissa Fralic, and her brother-in-law Kerry Fralic.

She will be greatly missed by her husband Rusty, her daughter Layna (Bill) Howland of Hurricane, West Virginia, her son Mark Fralic of Hart, her grandchildren Lilee and Liam Howland, her mother Norma Schimke of Onekema, her brother and sisters Julie Hansen, Tammie (Frank) Kruse, and David (Kristine) Schimke, all of Manistee, Loree (John) Sprawka of Onekema, Bonnie (Mike) Nethercott of Lowell, and Connie (Steve) Miller of Lakeview, her mother-in-law Jan (Jack) Aussicker of Zeeland, her sisters-in-law Jody (Vic) Winstrom of Holland, Tomi (Joe) Bystrom of Zeeland, and Katie (Steve) Cloninger of Conover, North Carolina, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and great friends.

A Celebration of Dixie's life will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 23 at the Mason County Reformed Church in Scottville, with her friend Pastor Dan Barkholz officiating. Friends may meet with her family for a time of visitation on Saturday morning from 10:00 am until time of services at the church. Those who wish to make contributions in Dixie's memory are asked to consider the Broach Foundation for Brain Cancer Research, 2726



# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mason County Reformed Church  
45 South Amber  
Scottville, MI 49454

## Celebration of Life Service

MAY 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mason County Reformed Church  
45 South Amber  
Scottville, MI 49454

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ Chris Mabry purchased the Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.



Chris Mabry - May 29, 2015 at 06:16 PM

SL

“ Dixie changed my life by letting me know her and teaching me how to love everyday and cherish your lovedones. I was an exchange student with her and her wonderful family summer 1990 and we have been close ever since. So many happy moments have passed together. I value what she gave me and so many others around her by her smiling spirit. Sari Lomu, Finland,

sari Lomu - May 26, 2015 at 11:08 AM

DS

“ Hi Rusty and all of your family,

Please accept my sympathy at the passing of Dixie. I visited you when you were newlyweds living in Chief across from the old Coe Bros. Store. I enjoyed meeting you as a young, very happy man with the love of your life. I'm so happy for you and all your family, that God Blessed you with sharing in Dixie's life and ministry. Although I can't be there with you today you are in my thoughts and prayers.

May the presence of our Father, the love of His Son, and the consolation of the precious Holy Spirit, be with you all today and forever, In Jesus Name. Amen

Your friend and brother,

Dan Shedd

Daniel Shedd - May 23, 2015 at 10:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.



May 22, 2015 at 10:42 AM

PF

“ Dear Rusty and your beloved family,

*Our thoughts and love are with you...*

*Truly, Dixie was one of the most beautiful and delightful people we have ever known.*

*Surely she now wears a heavenly and starry crown as the Father takes her hand.*

*We join in the tribute of her passing as we all... go 'Down To The River To Pray'\**

*'As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way...*

*O sisters let's go down...  
O brothers let's go down...  
O fathers let's go down...  
O mothers let's go down...come on down,  
Let's go down, come on down...  
Down to the river to pray ~ and who shall wear that starry crown ~  
Good Lord, show me the way.'*

*~Patrick and Debra Freke  
Family friends*

*\*American Gospel Song - 1800's*

---

**Patrick Debra Freke** - May 22, 2015 at 10:28 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.*



---

May 22, 2015 at 10:22 AM

TC

“ Tom and Patty Coffey purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.



Tom and Patty Coffey - May 22, 2015 at 10:16 AM

TF

“ Tim and Heather Johnson & Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.



Tim and Heather Johnson & Family - May 21, 2015 at 06:33 PM

BW

“ Rusty and family. My thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Dixie was always so positive, happy and smiling. What an inspiration she was. I still have a stuffed cow pillow she made me in high school. When ever I see that pillow I think of Dixie. Hugs and blessings to the family. Betsy Holman Webb

Betsy Holman Webb - May 21, 2015 at 10:46 AM

JK

“ Jane Kott lit a candle in memory of Dixie Lee Fralic



Jane Kott - May 21, 2015 at 07:38 AM

~F

“ ~ Frank & Lisa Jeanson and family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.



~ Frank & Lisa Jeanson and family - May 20, 2015 at 07:25 PM

JJ

“ *John And Joyce Jeruzal lit a candle in memory of Dixie Lee Fralic*



John and Joyce Jeruzal - May 20, 2015 at 06:37 PM

KW

“ *Rusty, Mark and Layna - Daryl & I want you to know how shocked and sorry we were to hear the news of Dixie. Hope she's riding with the top down, the wind in her hair and the sun on her face!*



*Karen Wall*

Karen Wall - May 19, 2015 at 09:13 PM

DK

“ *Rusty, Mark and Layna, along with all the rest of the family; We're so sorry to hear of your loss. Because of Jesus, we know we will again be together but now there is sorrow in your hearts. May the love of Jesus give you peace at this time and in the future as you mourn. Lean on Him; He has His arms open wide for you. Dixie was a blessing to all who knew her and will be missed. with much love and sympathy, Tom and Donna Krahe*

Donna Krahe - May 19, 2015 at 08:26 PM

PS

“ *My condolences to my cousins in the loss of an amazing person! - Priscilla (Davis) Shoemaker and Scott Shoemaker*

Priscilla Shoemaker - May 19, 2015 at 05:25 PM

MA

“ *The Harvey Adolphson's wish to send our deep condolences to the family...Tammie and Frank, our thoughts are with you at this time...God Bless your family.*



Michelle Adolphson - May 19, 2015 at 02:39 PM

DW

“ I'm just shocked to read today that Dixie has went on to heaven. I guess we live in a small world if we don't keep in touch we just get lost. My deepest sympathy goes out to you Rusty and the family. Dixie was a real treasure and I have fond memories of you both. In my prayers tonight I will be asking our savior to comfort the family in these very difficult times in your lives. We know your little gem is in heaven and I'm sure her charm is shining and lighting up the streets of gold.  
R.I.P. Dixie

Duke Willoughby - May 19, 2015 at 01:18 PM

SF

“ From some reason, Dixie popped into my mind this morning as I was driving to work. I know it has been some time since I have seen you all. I am so very saddened to hear the news of Dixie's passing. It was always such a pleasure to see you both in clinic at MD Anderson. I always enjoyed our conversations and hearing all of the family (grandchild) updates. I could see the pride in Dixie's face for her family. My prayers are with you all in the coming days and months. I hope that the sweet memories bring you comfort. All my love - Stacy Flach, RN

Stacy Flach - May 19, 2015 at 12:57 PM

CH

“ Dixie was always such a nice person in school and although I haven't seen her since school ..... I will always have many fond memories of her.....



Carolyn Herkelrath-Wecker - May 19, 2015 at 09:33 AM

JM

“ In the early 70's this young couple with two children rented our house in Manistee. At that time you always felt the warmth and strength that family shared with each other and everyone. The years passed with only seeing them in passing. My prayers are with you all. She will watch you all and protect you, Jan Maki

Jan Maki - May 19, 2015 at 08:57 AM

AA

“ Rusty, Layna, and Mark keeping you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I know Dixie looked forward to moving back to Michigan and had hoped to attend our class reunion, but the birth of her grandchild was more important as it should be. She was a beautiful woman. We are very sorry for your loss. Heaven gained a wonderful angel.  
Amy Schimke Zamastil

Amy Schimke Anderson - May 19, 2015 at 08:23 AM

ER

“ Rusty, my deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of Dixie. She was a beautiful person - inside and out. Although we were young when we worked together at MBT so many years ago, she somehow held onto that youthful beauty always. Her smile as well as her gentle, kind, and fun loving spirit was contagious. It's so sad that she was taken away at such a young & vibrant age, but then the Lord takes the best. May Jesus fill your hearts with peace as you reflect on all the beautiful memories of Dixie.



Eva Rose - May 19, 2015 at 08:07 AM

BW

“ Rusty & Dixie ... they were more than just our cousins, they were our friends! Even though we didn't see them often, we could pick up where we left off!

Together, they were just the purest example of not only what a Christian is but of what Jesus intended for a marriage to look like! They loved God, each other, anyone they came in contact with - they showed the love of Jesus, they didn't just talk about it! They were generous, kindhearted, fun-loving, adventurous, welcoming and warm. They always put the other one ahead of themselves - they had fun and they saw the funny side of life - they enjoyed life to the fullest! Dixie will leave a void in the lives of those in her world - but not a void so big that Jesus can't fill with his love! Dixie leaves such an awesome legacy - a rich heritage for her children and grandchildren ... A true example of Jesus for them to follow!

Rusty - you may have heard this song but if not, take a moment to listen to it as I believe it will minister to your broken heart ...

[http://youtu.be/Yf5yOn4\\_jHc](http://youtu.be/Yf5yOn4_jHc)

(Just in case this link doesn't work - it's Micheal W. Smith's "Welcome Home")

We love you dearly and pray God's peace fill your heart during this difficult time!

Brad & Carol Whittum

Brad & Carol Whittum - May 18, 2015 at 10:44 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Roger Willingham - May 18, 2015 at 09:36 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Roger Willingham - May 18, 2015 at 07:42 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Roger Willingham - May 18, 2015 at 07:25 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dixie Lee Fralic.*



May 18, 2015 at 06:54 PM

RC

“ *Shortly after building a new log home in 2005 Pinedale, WY (lot's of dust from construction). Dixie came in and gave the place a thorough cleaning. Vacuumed-off the logs and above the kitchen cabinets. What a hard working gal. Rusty, sorry for your loss.*  
*Robert Cadwallader*

Robert Cadwallader - May 18, 2015 at 06:16 PM

BE

“ I will miss my friend Dixie and our walks every morning with Tobin and Belle - Dixie was a kind, sweet soul that will be missed always. My love to her family always. *Bev Warnke*

**Bev** - May 18, 2015 at 11:11 AM

PS

*Dixie was my colleague at Manistee Middle School, working in the "focus room" with many of the squirreliest and toughest middle school kids. She was consistently sweet and calm and totally in control. The kids loved her, and they knew that she loved them. So sorry for your loss. Polly Schlaff*

**Polly Schlaff** - May 18, 2015 at 08:33 PM

DW

*What a sweet, beautiful, always youthful, and caring person. Dixie was also my colleague at the Jefferson Elementary School. No matter her age, she always looked like a teen. The students loved her. On her trip to Finland, homeland of my dad's parents, she picked and brought me back some flowers that grew on that soil. Sorry for your loss Rusty. She loved you and family so much. Donna Wagberg*

**Donna Wagberg** - May 18, 2015 at 09:56 PM

AS

*Rusty, our thoughts and prayers are with you. May Dixie's light shine through from heaven. The sun will always be shining for her motorcycle rides.*

*Mike and Amber Schram*

**Amber Schram** - May 19, 2015 at 08:36 AM

DS

*Our love and prayers to you Rusty, and family. Dixie was a very special person to everyone that knew her. The last time we saw her was when you visited us on your motorcycle. We appreciated that so much. We are thankful God brought you into our lives through Shell.*

*May God comfort you as only He can.*

*Love always, Jody and Deb Smith*

**Deb Smith** - May 19, 2015 at 10:48 AM

JL

*Rusty, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Dixie, Daisy, was a wonderful person who touched everyone that she met. We are so sorry for your loss.*

*John and Pam Lyman*

**John Lyman** - May 21, 2015 at 12:38 AM

BK

*Dixie was one of the sweetest girls you could ever meet. Honestly-- My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.*

**Betsy Kuipers** - May 21, 2015 at 06:30 AM



*Rusty, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We were both so sorry to hear about Dixie. We know that you both enjoyed life and that she was living every moment with you. She will be missed, her smile and laughter were always a pleasure. We know you will carry on and keep Dixie in a special place in your heart. So sorry for your loss.*

*Sid and Kelly Shackelford*

---

**Sid Shackelford** - May 21, 2015 at 11:48 AM