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## Profile: Madeleine Mullaney Lusk



By the time Madeleine Mullaney arrived in Arizona in 1971 with her husband Bill and growing family, she was well underway in realizing her girlhood dream of seeing the world outside her native Massachusetts, but had not made much progress in her other dream of being involved with people and helping them. That would begin to

change in 1987, when the family was pretty well grown, and Jim Durnin talked her into joining our parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. At the time, Madeleine was the conference's first female member. By now, she has served as treasurer, vice-president, and 9 years as the conference president, and vice-president and 4 years as president of the Cochise Council (made up of our county's nine conferences). She loves the work of helping those in need, and does not see her involvement ending.

Madeleine was born in Fall River, Massachusetts in September 1934, the tenth of 13 children born to Aime and Marie Louise Goulet. Her father was a French-Canadian from St.-Charles, Quebec. Her mother, also French-Canadian, was native to Fall River. Aime earned American citizenship by serving in World War I. Madeleine says he had a great voice, like her distant cousin Robert Goulet. Theirs was a very musical household and filled with family and friends. Madeleine's was a happy childhood.

The family was Catholic, and the Goulet children went to parochial school. In those days, Madeleine remembers, neighborhoods and parishes were highly ethnic. There were the Irish, the Portuguese, the Polish and the Lebanese as well as the French, for example. The native languages were spoken at home, and the parish schools taught their students to be bilingual. It was later in growing up, as the young people more interacted, that English became the common denominator.

Those of us who know Madeleine to be bright, knowledgeable and well spoken might be surprised to learn that she never finished high school. Her mother fell ill, and Madeleine had to stay home to care for her and others in the family. At 19, she married Bill Mullaney. They met when he was discharged from the Army and returned to the new home his family had built next door.

Bill was skilled in the building trades, but after a couple of years struggling, he considered the idea of going back into the Army. Madeleine was for it, because she wanted to see the wider world. Their journey in the



wider world over the next 17 years would take them to South Dakota, back to Massachusetts, Germany, Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, and eventually to Fort Huachuca. Along the way, Bill served a tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam, at which time Madeleine and the kids got reacquainted with her folks. Bill had started out as a mess sergeant, but later got into helicopter maintenance. At Fort Huachuca, he worked at the airfield. After retiring from the Army in 1973, Bill worked on post at the Engineer's office, where he was in charge of building maintenance.

Working with wood was one of Bill's talents. He never hesitated to help with projects for our parish, Fr. Louis at the monastery, and our mission church [Our Lady of the Mountains](#). His lasting gift is the cross in our sanctuary. It was fashioned of native black walnut wood given to Bill by a friend who lived in the Huachuca mountains.

Bill and Madeleine had five children. Debra, their first, lives in Petaluma, California and works for the Marin County health department. Lynne lives locally and manages the Cochise Raquet Club. Bud also lives locally, retired from the [Fry Fire Department](#) and now uses his paramedic skills for General Dynamics Information Technologies on post. In 1966, the Mullaney's lost an infant daughter, Allison, at the age of one week. Their youngest, Jason, was born locally and lives in Tucson, where he is area manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Madeleine enjoys 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The Mullaney's had launched most of their youngsters when in March 1984, at the age of 52, Bill died from pulmonary complications.

Having many friends at [St. Andrew's](#) helped Madeleine deal with Bill's loss. Bill and Madeleine had joined our parish in the '70s. She says they loved the warmth and friendship that they found here. Fathers Millane and Glutch were often guests in their home. They were eucharistic ministers and taught CCD. Later came the invitation to join St. Vincent de Paul.

It hasn't been all St. Vincent de Paul for Madeleine, however. She has served the community in



volunteer jobs for SAFE (combating substance abuse) and VICAP, too. For fun, she loves to golf. At the Pueblo del Sol clubhouse there was a good looking pro shop attendant who happened to be a widower. That would be her present husband, Barry Lusk. Barry was a native of Stamford, TX and a World War II C-47 transport pilot, who had dropped paratroopers over Normandy on D-Day. He would go on to a career as an air traffic controller, a career that took him all over the southwest. He liked what he saw in Sierra Vista and retired here. He liked what he saw in Madeleine, too, and they married in 1990. The following year, Barry, who had been Methodist, became a Catholic. Even with her work with St. Vincent de Paul, the couple still find time for golf and travel.

In addition to the kids and their families living locally, Madeleine has a sister, Vivianne, who lives here as well. Vivianne was a local TV interviewer for a few years and then went to city hall where she was secretary for several of our mayors, including Richard Archer.

Madeleine's advice to the rest of us is to get involved. Life passes too fast. For sure, that advice comes from her experience.