



Maxine A. Pekkala

February 19, 1930 - March 17, 2020

Maxine A. Pekkala, 90, passed into the hands of God Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Born Feb. 19, 1930, to Anna Radofski and Robert Micham, she was one of their 13 children. Maxine was a lifelong resident of Traverse City, born and raised.

In 1950 she married Guy E. Fowler, and together they had two children, Robinette (Ronald) Smith and Lonnie (Jack) Chrestensen, both of Traverse City. In 1971 she married James Pekkala, and became the self-proclaimed "wicked step-mother" to Wicked # 1, Cindy Pekkala, of Interlochen, Wicked # 2, Carol (Robert) Snow, and "Crabson," Craig Pekkala, both of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Maxine was so proud of her grandchildren Aaron Smith, Brie (Brock) Widrig, Adam Chrestensen, Whitney (Mike) Wooster and Thomas Snow, but her greatest joy was being "Gigi" to her great-grandchildren, Oliver, Jackson, Crosby, Cole, Harper Grace and Riley. Connie and Buck, Maxine's niece and nephew, were loved and treasured as if they were her own.

She loved to garden and took great pride in her gardens and fish pond, inviting anyone to come visit and enjoy as much as she did. She was extremely proud of her many handmade quilts and numerous other crafts she enjoyed.

Maxine was a lifelong member of St. Francis Catholic Church, and she especially loved her time as a volunteer with Chapel on Sundays. Maxine worked for many years behind the counter at Kresges, and connected with many business people during those years. Later she worked in the cafeteria at NMC, often inviting foreign exchange students to her home for holiday dinners.

Accepting to a fault and loved by many, she will be greatly missed.
Godspeed, we love you.

Maxine's family would like to thank Heartland Hospice for their excellent care and support, and a special thank you to Kari, her hospice nurse. You were there when we needed you most. Also, thank you to Fred Szczepanski, for the beautiful gift of his singing Ave Maria to

mom, a moment we will treasure forever.

Maxine will be laid to rest in Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date, at her beloved church home, St. Francis Catholic Church; notice to follow.

Maxine would be so proud if you chose a charity of choice or Heartland Hospice, 333 N. Summit St., P.O. Box 10086, Toledo, OH 43699 to make a donation in her honor.

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services is caring for Maxine and her family. www.reynoldsjonkhoff.com

Comments



“ My heartfelt condolences to the Family, I am so sad to hear that my dear Maxine past away, I got to know her when she was in Rehab and we had a lot of fun and laughter! She touched my life and I loved her, her spirit, her compassion for others. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Myriam Parker/ Activities Director/Orchard Creek Skilled Nursing

Myriam Parker - March 22 at 09:18 AM



“ Myriam she adored you so much. I have some beautiful stories to share if you're interested.

Lonnie Chrestensen - March 23 at 07:47 AM



“ So sorry to read of Max's passing. Craig, haven't seen you in many years. My condolences to you and your family.

Chip Elzinga
Houston, Texas

chip elzinga - March 22 at 08:13 AM



“ Sending heartfelt condolences to Max's family. We became neighbors 30 years ago and even though we later moved, she remained a special friend to our family. Our oldest daughter loved to "sneak" next door to visit and enjoy her gardens. Max always laughed about those visits from her 3 year old neighbor. She became "Grandma Max" to our four children and we'll all cherish the time we spent with her. She will be missed!
Ken and Anne Hall

Anne Hall - March 21 at 12:09 PM



“ I would stop over and visit Aunt Max every time I was up in Traverse City! She was a real sweetie and I loved catching up with her ☐ After moving to Florida 2 years ago I have not been back to Traverse but will always remember the loving hospitality she showed us. Heaven gained a new sweet angel

Cindy Tilley - March 20 at 08:07 PM



“ Hey Robin & Lonnie (and families),
My heart is heavy knowing my “second Mom” has passed away. I’ve known and loved her since early 1956 when my mom, 3 brothers and I moved into a house just a few doors down from your family on Franke Rd. She started babysitting the four of us when mom went to work and continued until August 1959 when my mom remarried. She was definitely an angel on earth to take on us 4 along with you two! Anytime throughout the years when our paths crossed, she was always so happy to see us and the hugs and kisses were always given sincerely. She is now in heaven with my mom and they are probably gabbing away!
Please accept my heartfelt sympathies. She is irreplaceable and will be missed by many of us left behind. I will watch for news of a celebration of her life, and if at all possible, will make my way up from Florida to be with you all.
Love & Hugs and God Bless,
Mary Anne (Bradford) Rountree

Mary Rountree - March 20 at 03:55 PM



“ Beautiful lady inside and out. Her sunny disposition and wisdom will be missed. Good.Catholic Lady. Blessed to have known her.

cindy r guba - March 20 at 11:49 AM



“ I remember the laughter. Aunt Max laughed with joy and made everyone around her laugh and experience that joy, too. She says she wasn't a card player, but she did play cards now and again. Once, while playing Euchre with my parents, she was holding her cards so everyone could see them. My mom asked her to hold her hand up. Aunt Max held her non card holding hand in the air. She laughed with us about that for years. She made all of us feel like we were her favorite. I will miss her laugh, her love, her light she brought with her to every room. I love you, Aunt Maxine.

Susan Sanford - March 20 at 11:39 AM