



## Wava Elizabeth Ronk

January 31, 1925 - August 1, 2015

Traverse City – Wava Elizabeth Ronk, 90, of Traverse City, passed away peacefully at Munson Medical Center on August 1, 2015 with her family by her side.

Born January 31, 1925, in Traverse City to the late Clarence and Sylvia (Groesser) Crain, she was the second oldest of five children. She was born at the family home on 9th Street with much anticipation from her older brother.

Wava attended Traverse City High School graduating in 1942. On August 5, 1945 she married Melvin Ronk in a service in Traverse City. She worked at McDermott Insurance Company and Plamondon Eye Clinic, from which she retired.

Wava will be remembered as a kind and strong woman who was giving of both her time and her talents. She donated her bookkeeping skills to Habitat for Humanity and was the organist at Mayfield Chapel and was the choir director at Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

She loved her cottage on Long Lake where she enjoyed knitting, sewing and quilting. Her greatest love was her family and she enjoyed spending time with them. She was known as the family party organizer and she made sure that there was always plenty of hugs and homemade bread for all.

Wava was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Melvin, siblings, Lester Crain, Leona (Buck) Crain and Donald Crain.

She is survived by her three children, Stanley (Patti) Ronk, Sandra (Todd) Hacker and Carolyn (Carl) Burkett, sister, Wanda Gray, 10 Grandchildren and 14 Great-Grandchildren.

A memorial service to honor Wava will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, with visitation held one hour prior.

Memorial contributions in Wava's name can be made to Habitat for Humanity of Traverse City, Michigan.

# Cemetery

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**Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens**  
3575 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI, 49684

# Events

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**AUG 5 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM**  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**AUG 5 Memorial Service 11:00AM**  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Mom, you were the best mom I could ever have wished for as a kid and as an adult. You gave me the love I needed, you gave me discipline when needed, you guided my spirit, you shared my joys and my sorrows. You were always there for me when I needed you. I am the man I am today partly thanks to your loving guidance. You didn't smother me but rather gave me the space I needed to become independent. Thank you for making my Patti a beloved member of your family. I will miss you so much, but I know you are now with Dad, united again in God's house.  
Until we meet again,  
Stanley

**Stanley Ronk** - August 06, 2015 at 06:01 PM

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“ Grandma you are my role model, and the person I looked up to, and the person I wanted to be. You were one of the most important people in my life. When I was younger I loved coming over to your house every Saturday while mom ran errands and spending the day with you, especially playing the card matching game with you. I am so happy you taught me how to make your amazing bread and I will think of you every time I make it. I can't really imagine my life without you, but I know you are happy and pain free especially now that you have been reunited with grandpa. I love you with all my heart, and I miss you more than anything.  
Love, Kendra

**Kendra Hacker** - August 05, 2015 at 02:15 PM

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“ Tomorrow I will say farewell to a wonderful woman who became my mom 23 years ago. She took me into her generous heart and shared all she had with me. She gave me the most wonderful man to love. We have packed so many fond memories into those years under her strong family guidance. I feel happy to know her journey to heaven will be a joyous new stage for her. Love you forever, mom.

**Patti Ronk** - August 04, 2015 at 08:45 PM

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“ Grandma you will forever be in my heart. Thank you for being such a wonderful grandmother. I will never forget the bread baking lessons, your grace and strength, you compassion and caring.  
Thank you for being generous with your love and understanding. Thank you for living a life anchored by God, family and friends. I have learned so much by your example in life and death. I will cherish the memories of our 41 years of loving, laughing and living.

**Julie Henry** - August 04, 2015 at 08:17 AM

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“ Although I did not personally know Wava, I do know her Granddaughter Kendra very well. She is and has been my daughter Kaitlin's best friend since grade school and we have come to know and love Kendra as our own.  
Our family was up north getting Kaitlin ready to move away for college when we got the news that Wava had passed so we packed up and headed for home. Along the way my daughter told me that on the night Wava passed that Kendra and her family spent the night sleeping at the foot of her bed, not wanting to leave her side. In trying to comfort my daughter in her heart ache for her friend I said to her “at least she (Wava) had never been alone” and as I was about to tell her that “Jesus had always been there with her”, I had a picture of the hospital room that night that so moved me, I could not even say those words and just cried along with my daughter.  
I was able to share this picture with Kendra and my daughter the following day and I hope it gave Kendra and will give her whole family great peace, for in that brief moment this is what I saw and felt:  
I was standing in the door of the hospital room looking in from the side at the foot of the bed. The room was dark and around the foot of the bed I could see dark shapes, the shapes of her family sleeping there. Above the foot of the bed was Jesus. Not over the family and not over Wava's feet, but as if he was a part of the foot board. His back was just a dark as the rest of the room, but the entire front side of Jesus emitted a soft light, soft and yet bright like a night light. Gently lighting up Wava whose eyes were open and a soft, sweet smile on her face, as if a lovely memory had just come to mind as she looked upon her Lord. At that moment I knew, that I knew, that I knew... I had seen and felt that she had never been alone. Jesus had always been with her in that room, unseen until that moment when he made himself known to Wava, to come to take her home.  
With love and Prayers,  
Michelle Marsh, Greg and Kaitlin

**Michelle Marsh** - August 03, 2015 at 01:33 PM

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“ Stan sorry to learn of your mother's passing. I know you have many memories to remember her by especially when they live as long as she did. Your mother saw so many changes in this town. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Deborah Kohn** - August 02, 2015 at 04:07 PM