



Mrs. Virginia E. Cronk (Pettit)

October 16, 1925 - September 1, 2019

VIRGINIA ELIZABETH (PETTIT) CRONK, 93, entered into glory, Sun., Sept. 1, 2019, after waging a heroic battle with the effects of Alzheimer's Disease. Virginia was born October 16, 1925 in Kalamazoo, MI, daughter of Joseph J. and Erna S. (Schmidt) Pettit. She lost her mother at the age of three and her father was absent, so she was raised in the loving household of her grandparents, August P. and Anna (Winzig) Schmidt at 13 National Ave NW, a home which contained her happiest memories. Later, after her grandparents died, she was raised by Alfred F. & Leona M. (Schmidt) Winterhalter [Leona was her mother's sister], at 1809 Willard Ave SE. Virginia attended St. Mary's Elementary School and was a graduate of Catholic Central H.S., class of '43. She worked 10 years in the office of Nash Kelvinator and met her future husband, Max, at the Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio in downtown Grand Rapids. They were married on July 18, 1953, at St. Francis Xavier Church, and settled in Cascade where they spent the rest of their lives. As a mother, she imparted to her children the love of books and reading. She created a beautiful home environment through both her love of antiques and in beautifying their wooded acre of paradise. Her living room "prayer wall" of religious images, family photos and special objects was legendary. As Virginia's life matured, her religious faith deepened and sustained her. In addition to her love of family, Fr. Jose Quintana and her church family at the Shrine of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Guadalupe were deeply important to her. She was also a 25+ year walker at Woodland Mall and had many fellow walker friends. And, Virginia was a prayer warrior, beginning each morning praying for the intentions and souls of people from all different times and places in her life...a practice she was faithful to until shortly before her death, even in her compromised state. Virginia died at 4:23 p.m., in her home surrounded by her three children, Mike, Mary and Ann and her first-born granddaughter, Sarah Smedes, while receiving the ministrations of Spectrum Hospice care. Her final moments were peaceful as she quietly and simply ceased breathing. And so culminated a life journey that included the heart break of Alzheimer's Disease, yet she knew all her children in the end...a profound gift to each of us. And, in spite of the incursions of Alzheimer's, she only got sweeter and more gentle...being a prayerful woman to the very end of her life. Her husband, Max, preceded her in death on May 4, 2014, as had her parents and grandparents; uncle and aunt, Al and Leona Winterhalter;

sister, Marianne Widmayer and brother, Fr. Joseph J. Pettit. Virginia was also preceded in death by her sister-cousin, Alice (Winterhalter) Limber, and her grandson, Adam Lee Friedman. She is survived by her three children, Michael Cronk, Mary (Ted) Friedman and Ann (Harold) Workman. Her grandchildren, Bryce Workman, Sarah (Tad) Smedes, Lindsey (Isaac) Colón, Matthew (Angela) Friedman and Kelly Workman. Her grandchildren, Dylan Workman, Abby Smedes, Emma Friedman, Becca Smedes, Mason Friedman and Connor Colón. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at the Shrine of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Guadalupe, 250 Brown St. SE, 11AM, Fri., Sept. 13, with prior visitation for family and friends from 9-11AM. A private family interment will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery. We would like to acknowledge the nurturing care of True Blue Caregivers and Spectrum Hospice in ministering to the needs of our mother and the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Hospice or the charity of your choice.

Cemetery

Mt. Calvary

1362 Leonard St NW
Grand Rapids, MI, 49504

Events

SEP **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

13

St. Francis Xavier - Grand Rapids
250 Brown St SE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49507

SEP **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

13

St. Francis Xavier - Grand Rapids
250 Brown St SE, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49507

Comments



“ Sincere and Prayerful Condolences



Steven Schmaltz - September 10 at 03:00 PM