



Lorena Walker

April 9, 1926 - August 11, 2011

ANN ARBOR – Lorena Walker, age 85, died August 11, 2011 at Huron Woods, a residential facility for memory loss patients on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Health Systems in Ann Arbor.

Lorena was born April 9, 1926 in Blissfield, the daughter of Joseph and Marietta (Spadafore) Nizzardi, Italian immigrants who came to America in 1917. Lorena graduated Blissfield High School, the valedictorian of her class. She attended Detroit Mercy School of Nursing, graduating in 1947. She worked as a staff nurse for a few years at Bixby Hospital in Adrian. In 1951, Lorena graduated from the University of Michigan with nurse anesthetist training.

She married Ralph E. (Mike) Walker of Adrian on January 24, 1953.

In her early years, Lorena and her surviving sister Louise Hines (Robert) endured many family tragedies; the death of their father, Joe, in 1933, their oldest brother, Andy, in 1934, another brother, Fred, in 1937, and brother Bill, who died in WWII in 1944. When able, Lorena helped her mother and Louise in the family confectionery store in Blissfield. The store closed in 1956.

Lorena enjoyed a varied career as a CRNA (certified registered nurse anesthetist) while raising her daughters Martha and Michelle. Early in her

career, she worked at Hillsdale Community Hospital. When Mike was transferred to Vincennes, Ill.. Lorena worked at hospitals in Mount Carmel, Ill. and Lawrenceville, Ill. The family moved to Adrian in 1965. At that time she began employment at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She continued to work occasional weekends at St. Joe's even after accepting a position a few years later at Herrick Hospital in Tecumseh. At Herrick Hospital, Lorena soon achieved high respect from many doctors and nurses. There was many a night when Lorena wasn't officially "on call," but most willingly returned to work to provide anesthesia for emergency surgery. Lorena loved her work and was proud to be a CRNA.

Lorena loved her family, her friends, and her work. She loved U of M football, the Detroit Tigers, the Ann Arbor Art Fairs, going to the Adrian Y and other exercise facilities in Adrian, eating out and shopping. She liked to be on the go. She also cooked wonderful meals for her family. When no longer working, Lorena discovered the benefit of exercise. She made many friends at the Adrian Y which helped her endure the death of her beloved husband, Mike, on January 12, 1991.

Lorena exhibited strength of character, generosity and willingness to help others throughout her life.

Lorena is survived by daughters Martha of Ann Arbor, Michelle Roofner (Tim) of Livonia; grandchildren Nicole Roofner of Farmington and Zachary Roofner of Albuquerque, NM. She is also survived by her sister Louise Hines (Robert) of Adrian, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. Lorena's family appreciates the support of the entire Hines family – Bob and Louise, Rob & Michelle of Adrian, Bill of Birmingham, Lisa Nuechterlein (Paul) of Grosse Pointe Woods, and Chris (Linda) of Birmingham. The family also wishes to thank the doctors who cared for Lorena at various points along her 11 year journey with Alzheimer's.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Huron Woods Staff Development Fund, Alzheimer's Association, YMCA of Lenawee County, or St. Joseph Mercy Hospice.

The funeral service for Lorena will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, 2011, at Wagley Funeral Home with Father Tom Wasilewski presiding. Burial will be private.

Friends may visit the family at the funeral home on Saturday from 3 to 7 p.m.

You may also send condolences to the family at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lorena Walker*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I'm sorry to hear of Lorena's passing. I just adored her. She was always smiling and very chatty when I worked at the Y. She just loved coming there. I remember when my youngest "Matthew" wanted some money for the vending machine and I had told him "no". Lorena quitely called him aside and gave him money and they both walked away as if nothing happened. She looked at me and said "he wanted it". I'll never forget her. Loved that lady.##imported-begin##Carolyn Alcorta-Barrett##imported-end##*

September 03, 2011 at 11:46 PM



“ *Michelle & Martha,
Thank you for notifying me - wish I had not been on the phone so I could have talked to you. You had a very impressive mother and her obit was very interesting - such a full life.
We enjoyed sitting next to your mother and dad at the U of M football games for years ! God Bless you, Shirley and John Schmitt##imported-begin##Shirley and John Schmitt##imported-end##*

August 17, 2011 at 12:39 PM



“ Martha

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. It especially impacted me because I also recently lost my mother. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family .##imported-begin##Christine Blair RN ##imported-end##

August 15, 2011 at 10:11 AM



“ Martha,

Thank you for letting me know about Lorena. I loved her so much. And I missed her so much. I can still see her smiling at me. I would catch her alot just looking at me and when I looked, she just smiled bigger at me. Taking care of her was like, taking care of my family. I care very much for her.##imported-begin##Brenda Reed##imported-end##

August 15, 2011 at 08:48 AM



“ My name is Keith Bixler and I was in the role of Executive Director at the YMCA when Lorena was a member so I got to know her. She will be missed and as you well know, she did enjoy the "Y" a great deal. Sorry to see of her passing.##imported-begin##Keith Bixler##imported-end##

August 13, 2011 at 07:16 PM



“ *Martha and Shelley,*

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. My family has wonderful memories of your mom. One time when I was in Adrian, your mother brought spaghetti and meatballs for dinner. My husband raved about it. That evening, your mom made a new batch of the sauce and packed it in a cooler so that we could transport it back to California. Only your mom would have done that.

I was always grateful for her friendship with my mother. She helped in so many ways.

May wonderful memories help you through this difficult time. You are in my thoughts.

Fondly,

Diana (Miceli) Miller##imported-begin##Diana Miller##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 05:28 PM



“ *Martha and Michelle*

So sorry to hear about your mom. She was a great lady and an inspiration to us fellow nurses. She was always so nice to me when I was over at your house hanging out with Michelle. You and your families are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Juna Casper (Lemon)##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 04:03 PM



“ *Martha and Shelly,*

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

I have many wonderful memories of your Mom--from feeding us when we visited during the holidays with her delicious spaghetti sauce; to babysitting our dog Colette and chasing her down the street with treats when she got out of the house., to spending fun times at our pool. Most of all your Mom was a great friend to my Mom and our family over many years.

Your memories and love for her will last forever. Take care.

Casey Johnson##imported-begin##Casey Johnson##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 09:13 AM



“ *thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Dont hurry back to soon, take some time for yourself you deserve it. take care.##imported-begin##Megan Jacobs##imported-end##*

August 12, 2011 at 02:46 AM