



Ruth and Ted Willett

July 29, 2016

ADRIAN— Ruth M. Willett, 84, passed away Wednesday, July 27, 2016 and Joseph 'Ted' Willett, 83, both of Adrian, passed away Friday, July 29, 2016 in the presence of their loving family, at Lenawee Medical Facility.

Ruth, the baby of the family, was born on June 23, 1932 to James L. and Marie Louise (McHugh) Markey in Detroit, MI. She graduated from Marygrove College where she received her BA degree in education. She worked as a primary teacher for 3 years and later shared her love of reading with her neighbors on Tomer Road by persuading the Bookmobile to stop in her driveway bi-weekly for 14 years.

Ted, the oldest of his family, was born in Sault Saint Marie, Canada, on November 22, 1932 to Ferdinand Joseph and Ellen E. (Donahue) Willett. Ted started the Seminary at Notre Dame but completed a BS in Chemistry at the University of Detroit. His career as a research chemist developing polyurethane rubber products included working for many years at Anderson Development in Adrian and other companies throughout the country. On February 11, 1956, Ted married the love of his life, Ruth Markey, together they celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss. After marrying Ruth, Ted was drafted into the Army where he developed his love for electronics and gadgets.

Faith, family and friends were the most important parts of Ruth and Ted's life. She loved to garden and, having a big love for animals, adopted many stray cats and dogs. Ruth was always willing to help anyone in need. While raising

their nine children, in the early years, Ruth and Ted were very involved as members of St. Mary's Church. Ted was on the Parish Council. Ruth was head of the Christian Service Committee working many hours within the food pantry. They both taught religious education classes. Later while living in White Pigeon, MI and as members of St. Joseph parish, they sang in the church choir. Ted was a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. Ruth was devoted to Eucharistic Adoration. After Ruth became ill, they returned to Adrian where Ted devoted his life to taking care of his wife, Ruth. While Ruth was in the LMCF, Ted would assist with the weekly Catholic prayer service for residents by lecturing, singing, and doing whatever needed to be done. The last few years, they returned to St. Mary of Good Counsel.

Survivors include their children, Anne (Kevin) Derby of Britton, Irene (Scott Richards) Valdez of Jackson, MI, Ted (Julie) Willett of Bloomfield Hills, Daniel (Kathleen) Willett of Grand Rapids, Therese (Brian) Roe of Jackson, Lucy (Daniel) Conley of Schaumburg, IL, Frank (Julia) Willett of Adrian, Clare Willett of Birmingham, MI and Jim (Lori) Willett of South Lyon, MI; 35 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; and her siblings, Marie Louise Diefenbacher of Bloomfield Hills, Irene Markey of Royal Oak, Ann (Joseph) Samyn of Royal Oak, sisters-in-law Virginia Markey of Farmington Hills and Marilyn Markey of Grosse Pointe Woods, Ted's brother, Rev. John F. Willett, C.S.s.R. of Missouri and sister Marleen Sullivan of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to their parents, they were preceded in death by their son-in-law, Steven Valdez; Ruth's brothers James and Francis Markey, brothers-in-law Gilbert Diefenbacher and Timothy Sullivan.

Mass of the Resurrection for Ruth and Ted will be 10:30 AM, Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at St. Mary of Good Counsel Parish, Adrian, with Rev. Father William Auth as celebrant. Visitation will be on Tuesday, August 2 at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, from 3-8 PM, with a prayer service at 7 PM and also one hour before the funeral service on Wednesday at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lenawee Medical Care

Facility or St. Mary's Food Pantry.

A full obituary may be read and online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI

Visitation

AUG 3. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Good Counsel Parish
305 Division Street
Adrian, MI 49221

Funeral Mass

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Good Counsel Parish
305 Division Street
Adrian, MI 49221

Tribute Wall



“ *Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Ruth and Ted Willett*



Wagley Funeral Home - August 03, 2016 at 04:27 PM



“ *Ruth and Ted Willett*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *My sincere heartfelt condolences to all of you. They are a wonderful couple that raise a wonderful family.*

David Grain - August 19, 2016 at 07:04 AM



“ *My condolences to the entire Willett family. Your tribute pictures are so heartwarming...lives well- lived and well-loved. Joy Risner Gilbert*

Joy Gilbert - August 04, 2016 at 05:28 PM

AD

“ 2 files added to the album Mom and Dad



Anne Derby - August 03, 2016 at 10:52 PM

 Dawn Pollard

“ Prayers and Hugs to all the family, Anne and Irene and all, for this tough time in your lives. I hope you remember the good times with your parents. Dawn Roback Pollard, Belleville

Dawn Pollard - August 03, 2016 at 07:45 PM

IV

Thank you Dawn for your prayers. It has been a bittersweet walk down memory lane. Irene

irene valdez - August 04, 2016 at 07:18 PM

JS

“ Jennifer Saylor lit a candle in memory of Ruth and Ted Willett



Jennifer Saylor - August 02, 2016 at 08:38 PM



“ 30 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wagley Funeral Home - August 02, 2016 at 02:24 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



August 02, 2016 at 12:47 PM



“ *Irene Markey* purchased the *Beautiful Dreams* for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



Irene Markey - August 02, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 02, 2016 at 10:22 AM



“ *Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 02, 2016 at 08:47 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 02, 2016 at 08:29 AM



“ *I'm very sad for the loss of my aunt and uncle. I remember family gatherings at the farm house with them and trying to beat uncle Ted in basketball with my cousins. They were always so great to see. You will be missed. Love, Joe S*

joseph samyn - August 02, 2016 at 08:22 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



August 02, 2016 at 08:19 AM



“ 144 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wagley Funeral Home - August 02, 2016 at 07:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



August 02, 2016 at 06:52 AM

WR

“ *With Love - The Runyons purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



With Love - The Runyons - August 01, 2016 at 07:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 04:54 PM

LC

“ *2 files added to the album Mom and Dad*



Lucy Conley - August 01, 2016 at 04:39 PM

TF

“ *The DeRose and Cappelletti families purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



The DeRose and Cappelletti families - August 01, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 10:45 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 10:39 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 10:38 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 10:30 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 10:20 AM



“ *Dave Baker and the KeyBank team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



Dave Baker and the KeyBank team - August 01, 2016 at 09:40 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



August 01, 2016 at 08:59 AM



“ *Tricia Olive lit a candle in memory of Ruth and Ted Willett*



Tricia Olive - July 31, 2016 at 08:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



July 31, 2016 at 07:05 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



July 31, 2016 at 04:11 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



July 31, 2016 at 03:23 PM



“ *Margaret and James (and Michael) purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



Margaret and James (and Michael) - July 31, 2016 at 01:59 PM

DO

“ Ted, Dan and Therese, So sorry to hear of the loss of both of your parents. That must be overwhelming. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Diane Ries O'Neil

Diane O'Neil - July 31, 2016 at 09:40 AM

NK

“ Ted, Julie and kids, so sorry for the loss of your loving parents and grandparents. What an amazing life they led and story you have to tell because of them. God bless you all. Love, Norma Kolasa

Norma Kolasa - July 30, 2016 at 10:19 PM



“ Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



July 30, 2016 at 09:18 PM

DR

“ Dave, Donna, Danny, Donny, and Doug Ruggles purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.



Dave, Donna, Danny, Donny, and Doug Ruggles - July 30, 2016 at 02:00 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



July 30, 2016 at 12:02 PM



“ *John and Mary Beth Peters purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



John and Mary Beth Peters - July 30, 2016 at 11:36 AM



“ *The Michael Zenk Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



The Michael Zenk Family - July 30, 2016 at 05:35 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ruth and Ted Willett.*



July 29, 2016 at 09:54 PM

TO

“ Clare, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of great sadness.

Love, Toni & Joe McTamney

Toni - July 29, 2016 at 08:50 PM

SF

“ So sorry for the loss of both your mother and father! Always admired them and your beautiful family. May God bless you with beautiful memories during this time of great sorrow! Love and prayers, Suzanne Francoeur

Suzanne Francoeur - July 29, 2016 at 08:40 PM

DO

“ What a wonderful couple they were. Their love and devotion to each other was truly beautiful, and our days will never quite be the same at LMCF again. Much love to all the family.

Day a Osburn

Day a Osburn - July 29, 2016 at 08:39 PM

JG

“ Dear Ted and Family, We were school mates at the Creek. So very sorry for your loss. God Bless you all. Your parents were the Best! Together always..❤️

Janie (Stevens) Geeting - July 29, 2016 at 05:29 PM