



Geraldine Zink

September 27, 1926 - April 30, 2017

Gerry Zink, 90, passed away on April 30, 2017, surrounded by her loving family in her home in Toledo, where she lived for 63 years. She was born in Toledo, Ohio, on September 27, 1926. She was a born storyteller and often entertained her grandchildren with tales of her childhood spent in the Polish neighborhood with her brothers and sister.

At Libbey High School, she met and fell in love with Ted Zink. He called her "Duchess" and even once wrote it with footprints in the snow outside her classroom window. Two years later, in 1944, they were married while Ted was home on leave from the U.S. Navy. They were married for 47 years before his passing in 1991, but she spent the rest of her life loving him. They raised two daughters, Darleen and Nancy, and later had 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren to spoil.

During WWII, Gerry worked at Willys Overland riveting airplane wings alongside her mother, Jenny. After the war, she worked in retail for many years at Lamson's and LaSalle's department stores in downtown Toledo, and later at Elder Beerman.

Gerry's greatest joy was always her family and friends. She was known for her cherry and peach pies, cookies, and a beef roast that was named "Grandma Meat" by her grandchildren many years ago. A silly name that stuck for a dish that became a family tradition. No one left her house without a full belly and a full heart.

Gerry's brother once gave her the nickname "Mother Theresa" because she would go out of her way to help anyone in need. She was caring and kind and easily made friends anywhere she went.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis "Ted" Zink, her mother Jenny Matuszek Rittichier, her brother Virgil (Esther) Rittichier, and her sister Annette Rittichier Hager. Gerry leaves behind her brother Robert (Gail) Rittichier, brother-in-law Bud Hager, daughters, Darleen (Ralph) Johnston, and Nancy (Tom West) Zink, grandchildren Lori Wood Carroll, Seth (Beki) Johnston, Brian (Julie) Wood, Sarah (Monty) Hilderbrand, and Mark Johnston, 11 great-grandchildren, several nephews, a favorite niece, and many

extended family members and friends. We will miss her greatly.

In honoring Gerry's wishes, services will be private. Arrangements entrusted to the Ansberg-West Funeral Directors, (419) 472-7633.

The family would like to thank ProMedica Hospice for their excellent care and compassion, especially nurses Tim and Terri. Please consider them if you wish to make a memorial donation.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.ansberg-west.com

Comments



“ Nancy - I'm so sorry to read of your Mom's passing. From what I've read she was a wonderful person. I'll be praying for you and your family, that you'll have peace and comfort during these difficult days.

Anne Morrissey Hardy - May 04, 2017 at 08:18 PM



“ Dear Darleen, Nancy and Family,
I am saddened to hear of your loss. I have fond memories of playing upstairs at your house when I was a little girl. For years I cherished a little blue and white checked exquisite doll dress that your mother made me. I also remember your parents snuggling together on the couch, thinking what a cute couple they made while we played Sorry or some other game and dipped potato chips in ice cream. They truly were a match made in heaven.

I'll also always remember your mother's kindness to my mom in her last years. My prayers are with you and your families. Sincerely, Elaine Moore

elaine moore - May 04, 2017 at 04:34 PM



“ Gerry will be missed. She was awesome caring woman. Always treated me as one of her own family. God bless her.

Libby hendrickson - May 04, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ Darleen,Nancy and Family--- You picked a very nice photo of your mom. I recall a very caring and kind lady with Fiery Red hair and a very Green thumb.I thought, "Best yard on the block"
. I should also give a plug for the expert mowing by your dad. Your mom was always very kind to my mom and I thank her for that.When all is said and done, 90 trips around the Sun is a pretty good life indeed. God Bless. Ron

Ron Mettler - May 03, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ Nancy, I'm very sorry for your loss. I only knew Gerry a short time but it didn't take long to see how wonderful a person she was.

Mitch

Mitch Warnement - May 03, 2017 at 02:46 PM



“ Darleen, Nancy and Family,

We're so sorry for your loss. I'm really glad I got to spend some time with Mrs. Zink over the past few weeks. We've always had so much fun together. Your mom and dad and you two were like a second family for me. It seems like I went with you everywhere. I spent more time with all your aunts and uncles and grandparents than I did my own. I hope our parents are having a good game of rummy up in heaven.
Love, Penny

Penny and David Cannon - May 03, 2017 at 10:27 AM