



Maria Johanna Jakubiak

June 2, 1925 - June 2, 2017

Maria Johanna Jakubiak, 92, of Zeeland, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 2, 2017. The youngest of five children, Maria was born on July 24, 1924, in the town of Souburg, in the Province of Zeeland, the Netherlands. As a young teen, her life changed dramatically when her country became occupied by the Nazi regime during WWII. The atrocities that she and her family witnessed during that time helped build her strong character. She offered a strong support system to her family, whenever it was needed. At the end of the war, Maria met a young Polish soldier named Tadeusz (Ted), who had recently come to the Netherlands after fighting as a "freedom fighter" in the Polish Underground Army. Their mission during the war included blowing up railroad tracks to disrupt Nazi operations, and robbing banks to finance the movements' efforts. Near the end of the war, the Polish Underground also battled the Russian army, which occupied part of Poland. Because of this, Ted knew he could not safely return to his homeland. With false French citizenship papers, he traveled through several countries, before ending up in the Netherlands, where work was available.

Ted and Maria were married in 1947, and spent several years building their home in the Netherlands. Maria knew that Ted's dream was to immigrate to the United States, and in 1955, they got that opportunity. With the help of sponsors, they moved to Zeeland with their 6 year old daughter. Ted worked for the City of Zeeland, and Maria retired from Biotec.

Maria, affectionately known to her grandchildren and great grandchildren as Grandma Ria, loved her family with all her heart. Soft spoken and polite, she also had a great sense of humor. When people made mention of her Dutch accent, she would tell them that she had tried to take meds to get rid of it, but it didn't seem to be working. Her hugs and homemade vegetable soup will be missed. Maria was preceded in death by her husband in 2003. She is survived by daughter, Jolanta (Jim) Rynsburger of Zeeland, grandson Thaddeus (Miska) Rynsburger of Holland, Amanda (Michael) Santana of Baltimore, and Adam (Aimee) Rynsburger of Naples, Fl; great-grandchildren, Kearia, Brayden, Cameron, William, and Miles. Maria was a member of First Reformed Church of Zeeland. Visitation will be Monday, June 5, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, at Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State Street, Zeeland. A Graveside committal service will be held on Tuesday at 10:00 AM in Zeeland Cemetery, 220 East Lincoln Ave., Zeeland. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland.

Tribute Wall



“ *Maria Johanna Jakubiak*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"My sympathy to your family. Maria was a wonderful lady and I enjoyed the time we shared. She was such a kind lady and everyone loved her!"*

Sandy Anderson - June 10, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Jolenta So sorry to hear of the passing of you dear mom. She was an extraordinary women. So honored to have known her. Thoughts & prayers for you & your family Sincerely, Linda Tibbs"*

A friend - June 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *"What a beautiful picture of a life well lived. Her smile and humor will be missed tremendously at American House. I'm so thankful I could be apart of her last few years of life on earth. Prayers for comfort and peace go to you Jo & family!"*

Abbie Sok - June 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HV

“Just want you to know that our prayers are with you and your family. Your mother is now resting in the arms of Jesus, and with your dad standing by. What a great reunion that must be. Someday we will all be together again with the ones we love. Hold tight to the hand of Jesus and keep the faith until we are all together again. In Christian love, Norma and Henry Viening”

henry viening - June 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DB

“Jolanta and Family -- I was so sorry to read of your Mom's passing. Your Mom was a very special lady and, along with your Dad (who worked with my Dad for many years), very good friends of my parents (Ruth and Elmer Van Der Kolk). Please know your family is in my thoughts and prayers.”

Diane Bloem - June 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JW

“Jo: Sorry to hear about your loss. Now I know where you get your class and being a all around nice person. I'm sure you will always have good memories of your parents. Jason & Sandy Wolters”

Jason Wolters - June 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AK

“Maria, we will miss you at the family gatherings by Miska and TJ! We will miss your optimistic look on life making it always pleasant to visit with you! You are very much loved by your family.”

Alida Kuipers - June 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

“Ed and I send you our sincere sympathy for the loss of your dear sweet mother/ grandmother/ great grandmother. We rejoice in her homecoming in Heaven and her long awaited reunion with her Ted.”

Mary and Ed Heyboer - June 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DB

“I'm so glad I got to meet this special lady and visit with her a few times. She was so proud of her daughter and her grandchildren and great grandchildren! What a wonderful life story shared here. Though she will be missed, I rejoice that she is in Heaven and not struggling anymore. Prayers for my friend Jo and her family.”

Diane Beltman - June 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM