



Natalie June Springsteen

June 9, 1925 - March 17, 2019

Natalie June (Klapchuk) Springsteen, age 93, passed away on Sunday, March 17, 2019 in Saline, MI. She was born on June 9, 1925, in Detroit, MI the daughter of George and Mary Klapchuk, who had emigrated to this country from the Ukraine and Poland. She was three years old when they moved to Dowagiac, MI. When she was 4 years old, a talent agent from Hollywood saw her tap dancing and wanted to take her there, but her parents wouldn't let her. The family lived above their lunch restaurant, George's Place, on Beeson Street downtown until she was 14. The family then moved to their home on Oak Street in Dowagiac.

Natalie attended the Dowagiac schools and met the love of her life Philip "Flip" Springsteen the summer after 9th grade. They dated all through high school and Flip joined the Navy while Natalie finished high school. She then moved to Chicago to attend Gregg Business College. She worked at South Bend Tool and Die as a secretary.

Natalie and Flip were married on March 26, 1944 at her parent's home on Oak Street. The young couple crossed the country, living in Columbus, OH, Norfolk, VA, St. Charles, MO, and San Diego, CA with the Navy before finally settling in Dowagiac. Flip owned and operated a donut business for 38 years.

Natalie and Flip loved traveling the world to all 50 states and 30 countries. After her family was grown, Natalie worked at the Community State Bank in Dowagiac for 22 years, serving as secretary to the president. Natalie was a member of Antlerettes, Junior Arts, and the Economics Club. She was a room mother, and a very active and involved mother to her 3 children. Natalie's greatest joy was her family. She lived her last 4 very good years in Saline, MI at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Joe Burke, enjoying movies, friends, luncheons, and many great family gatherings.

Survivors include their children, Sandra (Bill) Shurte, and Cynthia (Joe) Burke. She is also survived by 4 grandchildren Sharon Shurte, Kelly (Steve) Grau, Suzanne (Tom) Ratcliff, Joseph Burke, step-granddaughters Christine (Jeff) Hamlin, and Catherine (Rob) Dickson, and 9 great-grandchildren, Alayna Mullins, Emma Grau, Christian, Michael, and Ryan Ratcliff, Abbey and Kyle Hamlin, and Connor and Jordan Dickson. Natalie was preceded in death in addition to her husband of 55 years by her son Mike Springsteen (deceased 2002), grandson Todd Shurte, and siblings Russell Klapchuk, Olga Parker, and Irene

Klapchuk. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline. A Memorial Service will then be held starting at 11:00 A.M. Pastor Bill Adams will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her name may be made to Arbor Hospice and envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To leave a memory you have of Natalie, to sign her guestbook, or for more information please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 East Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Your mom was a very special lady. I always enjoyed visits with her. It was always nice visiting with you, Cindy, when you were here and we came upon each other. Your mom was a great asset to the community of Dowagiac and she will be missed by many. Prayers to you and your family for Comfort and Healing during this time.

Sue Abshagen-Wilder

Susan Wilder - March 20, 2019 at 04:17 PM

PJ

“ Sandra, Cynthia and family my heart goes out to all of you. Natalie and I had several fun trips together: the first being to Lake Placid and she had less than twenty-four hours to cancel all her appointments - hair, nails, etc., and pack until I picked her up very early the next morning. (This was due to Don's mom suddenly not feeling well and he felt he should stay home with her.) The one thing she did not care do is dance with other women at the Round Oak. It was through my suggestion to a certain gentleman at the "Oak" who had lost his wife, that Natalie liked to dance. The rest the history. She was such a special person she had several nice gentlemen in her later years.

Polly Judd - March 19, 2019 at 04:15 PM

PW

“ Natalie was such a gem! She had the prettiest smile. Bringing my grandkids to your home for piano, it was clear to me how much she enjoyed the little ones.

Cindy, you did a wonderful job with Natalie in helping her throughout the ageing process.

I'll miss seeing her when we visit.

Patty Willibey

Patty Willibey - March 19, 2019 at 04:13 PM

SR

“ Natalie's 90th Birthday Slideshow <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RrqxydVaPrbXeN29>

Suzanne RstcRatc - March 18, 2019 at 03:27 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Natalie June Springsteen.*



March 18, 2019 at 01:25 PM