



## Olimpia Warsaw

October 20, 1951 - November 9, 2020

Olimpia Ungurean Warsaw, 69 years old, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2020. She was the daughter of the late Lidia and Moise Ungurean. Olimpia was also the beloved wife of Ronald L Warsaw, loving mother of Claudiu L Coltea (Michael A Hatty), twin sister of the late Otilia (Basil) Bell, sister of Doina (Ghita) Balean, and dear aunt to Florin (Melissa) Surlea, Chris (Gabi) Balean, and John D Muntean. She was also a deeply proud and loving pet mom to her many furry babies throughout her life including Timmy, Tiffany, Chloe, Bailey, Kahlua, Rico, Chico and recently Olivia and Nelli. She also adored her furry grandkids Cybil and Hunter. She also leaves behind countless cousins and friends who counted Olimpia as an honorary family member because her love and kindness were so abundant, and her goodness so big.

Olimpia was born in Moldova Noua, Romania. Olympia's father passed when she was 4 years of age, she then often took on the role of nurturer and caretaker for her sisters and even her mother, which came to define whom she would be throughout her life. I, her son, am writing this and attempting to describe how wonderful, loving, and amazing my mother was and is, is like trying to describe how warm the sun is or how love feels. When I asked our family and friends to describe her, the overwhelming response was "Everyone loved your mother! Everyone!" Her sisters spoke about how she was the most protective person they knew. Her mother spoke of how she was the most adoring person she knew. Her friends said she was the most fun one when you wanted to have a laugh and the one you could count on most to comfort you in times of need. Always early to church on Sunday as a teenager, she was the one all the young church boys wanted to date with her beautiful eyes, kind soul, big hugs, and a smile that pierced everyone's heart.

As a mother, no one compared to Olimpia. She was the kind of mom a child prays and hopes for, and the quintessence of complete and selfless love and sacrifice for her child. When my mother and I immigrated to the United States, we came with many hopes and dreams, and only a few dollars. I never knew we were financially poor, because Olimpia made every day feel rich. For many years, we did not have a car, so my mother would carry me on her back as we went sightseeing and enjoyed time together on weekends – to

museums, libraries, concerts, church, the zoo, and helping others in need. During the week, my mother would spend hours teaching me, while teaching herself, English. She would sell the few precious valuables she had just to buy me my favorite white chocolate elephants – one a day, every day, for years. But beyond that, my mother taught me kindness, selflessness, and perseverance. Growing up in Detroit, we lived in a multi-cultural, multiethnic community. She would help me see how beautiful and amazing “different” was – from others who did not look like us, to those who did not think or believe as we did. She taught me that diversity in its many forms was God’s way of painting the world to be a richer, more colorful, and more loving place. She did not see nor categorize people by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or class. She saw people as humans, creations of god, all of whom sought to be heard and to be loved. And our role and responsibility to each other was simply to spread that love and kindness with the unique gifts each of us is given, no matter what they were, and to make an impact. From my first memories of life, until the night she passed away, she ended every conversation with one phrase: “Go make a difference in this world.” That is what my mother taught me. That is love.

As a citizen of the world, Olimpia broke barriers and boundaries that women of her time and her class were not supposed to reach. She was the first in her family to earn not just one, but two college degrees. She taught herself English, learned to survive, always worked multiple jobs, and made a home that was filled with joy, love, nurturing, and understanding. Even in the most difficult of times, Olimpia smiled through it, and knew there was always hope to be found, even in the unseen. She became a nurse, and then a leader in her field helping others find the joy in giving and serving others. She was so proud of becoming a nurse, not because of the stature it brought but because of the platform it gave her to help others in need. This is who she was and is to the world. Her husband often speaks of her boundless love that was so big and beautiful, it was even frustrating at times. After retiring from nursing, her desire to give and love did not stop. She would bring boxes of chocolates to her doctors, offer delivery drivers Romanian knick knacks from her home as a token of her appreciation if she did not have cash, and even demanded her husband feed the skunks and racoons around their yard so they would not go hungry. There are countless moments throughout her life where Olimpia went to any means necessary to make sure all creatures, humans and otherwise, felt loved, nurtured, and safe.

Many of you will never know Olimpia, or you may have only known her during a portion of her life. But she is a person that embodied love, strength of character, and an unapologetic defiance to stand up for what was right and what was good. Although on Earth only 69 years, her goodness and love for kindness, family, friends, and her child will

live on forever through all those she empowered, loved, and nurtured during her time with us. I have not met a better, stronger, more loving person and I am so honored she touched my life, all our lives, and I had the absolute highest privilege to call one of God's greatest gifts to this world My Mother.

I love you Mommy. We will see you where the roses are always in bloom.

A private prayer will be held on November 14, 2020 and she will be laid to rest that day at United Memorial Gardens, in Plymouth, Michigan next to her Mother, Lidia, and Twin Sister, Otilia.

Per her wishes, a celebration of life service, ceremony, and feast will take place Summer of 2021 at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth, MI. The family will reach out with more details of the celebrations this Spring. If you would like to share a gift, in lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Olimpia's most cherished charitable organizations:

Michigan Humane Society

<https://www.michiganhumane.org/tributes/>

Humane Society of Huron Valley

<https://secure2.convio.net/hshv/site/Donation2?>

[idb=1572643432&df\\_id=4303&mfc\\_pref=T&4303.donation=form1&idb=0](https://secure2.convio.net/hshv/site/Donation2?idb=1572643432&df_id=4303&mfc_pref=T&4303.donation=form1&idb=0)

To share a memory, please use the Share A Memory tab on the web page.

# Cemetery

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## **United Memorial Gardens**

4800 Curtis Road

Plymouth, MI, 48170

# Comments

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“ Olimpia was a carrying and loving aunt to me a great sister to my mom, Rodica and sister-in-law to my dad, John. She loved me a lot and I loved her very much, we all loved her. In fact we named my brother, Olimpiu Julian after her. She always put a smile on my face and always had a word of encouragement for me and my family. She will be missed tremendously and she'll be in our hearts forever. Much love & condolences go out to my cousin Claudiu and to Olimpia's husband, Ron. You're in our thoughts and prayers and we ask God to give you strength to get thru this tough loss. The grieving period is hard, but the love and the memories are eternal. Olimpia had a heart of gold, may she Rest In Peace. We send you much love and warm thoughts from Florida. Dan Tiplea & family (Oana, Julia, Luke, Danny and Tippy).

**Daniel Tiplea** - November 15, 2020 at 02:59 PM

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“ Claude, your loving mother, Olimpia did adore you. Keep those precious memories close to your heart. Numai cei pe care îi uităm mor...

**Gabi** - November 14, 2020 at 02:01 PM

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“ Dear Claudiu,

May the Lord comfort you in your loss. She was the best aunt a nephew could ask for. We just finished the zoom funeral services. It was a beautiful service, brought back a lot of amazing memories of Olimpia and it was a great comfort for all of us that knew her and loved her. Added bonus was the mini reunion between us cousins!

May God comfort you and keep in His care and remember it's not "Good Bye" but "La Revedere!"

Lots of love,

Doina, Gabi, Cris, Josh, Abby, Calvin, Jordan, Caleb, Zachary and Buddy!  
(The Baleans)

**Cristian Balean** - November 14, 2020 at 12:01 PM

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“ Olimpia was loving kindness personified, and our world is brighter and warmer thanks to this magnificent lady. How lucky I was to have known her. And what comforts me at this time most is knowing that Olimpia’s love and light and sparkle are in Claude. The way Olimpia loved Claude— that is the way Claude loves others. She is the gift that keeps on giving, the love that never dies but gets passed along and multiplies and brightens the world.

**Amanda Smith** - November 13, 2020 at 07:09 PM

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“ 36 files added to the album Memories Album



**Claudiu Coltea** - November 13, 2020 at 04:07 PM

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“ Dear Olimpia - To one of my most favorite moms in the entire world: thank you. Thank you for raising your “best boy” which gave me a wonderful best friend in college and for 20 more years since then. Thank you for sharing laughs with my mom. You both have so much in common and me and Claude enjoyed watching you two laughing in your Euro accents so much more than we ever shared. Thank you for caring about me and my twins— attending their violin recital, they both remember you well.  
Finally thank you for teaching me more about love. You never let me leave without saying “I love you”. And as I have gotten older I better understand why. You will never be forgotten and always loved. Rest In Peace with your mom and your twin and say hi to my mom too. We will see you again.

**Diana Witowski** - November 13, 2020 at 03:06 PM

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“ I love you mom. You were the most amazing, loving, and selfless mother a child could only dream of. I will carry you forever and make a difference on your behalf. Thank you, for making me the best possible version of myself I could become. You changed the world for the better, forever.



**Claudiu Coltea** - November 13, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ A beautiful and devoted mother. Claude, you were the pride and joy of her heart. She will be dearly missed.

**noemi** - November 13, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ What a amazing tribute to a remarkable person. I am so sorry for your loss.

**Kris Rice** - November 13, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ Claude, what beautiful tribute to your beautiful mom. You are in our prayers, Joe Nance and Jan Murray

**jan murray** - November 13, 2020 at 01:15 PM