



Clarice Joyce Vega

June 19, 1926 - January 20, 2016

Clarice (nee Smolenyak) Vega, January 20, 2016, age 89 of Westland. Clarice was born in Detroit on June 19, 1926. She married the love of her life, the late Jess Vega on October 20, 1951. Clarice was the adored mother of 10!; Douglas Vega, Keith Vega, Mike (Nancy) Vega, Linda (Mark) Whaley, Jessie (Bob) Hall, Laura (Rich) Spadafora, Anita (Mark) Scibiorski, Matt Vega, Dan (Lisa) Vega and Loretta (Mike) Brogan. Grandmother to Stephanie Vega, Christine Vega, David (Nikki) Vega, Zachary (Danielle) Whaley, Adam (Annie) Whaley, Samantha (Daniel) Hartman, Maxx Whaley, Kyle (Amelia) Hall, Corrie Hall, Nick Spadafora, Daniel Spadafora, Joey Spadafora, Jackie Vega, Zoe Vega, Ally Vega, Drew Vega, Emily Brogan and Alex Brogan. Great Grandma to Jackson, Abel, Ellie, Lincoln and Tegan. Preceded in death by her loving parents, Michael and Luella Smolenyak and dear brother Kenneth Smolenyak. Clarice loved to walk and up until her health wouldn't allow it, she could be found on some happy trail. She spent many years golfing, bowling and relaxing with her puzzle books. Clarice so enjoyed taking pictures...of everything and everyone, then sharing them along with a sweet note to family members or friends. Even people who barely knew her would get a kind, uplifting greeting. All who knew Clarice witnessed her deep faith. It was the center of her life, right next to the love she had for her family. Everyone who knew Clarice was blessed beyond words to have her in their life. Her light will be sadly missed but live forever in our hearts. Visitation Friday 3-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford

Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Scripture Service Friday 7 PM. In State Saturday 9 AM until the 10 AM Funeral Mass at SS. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **22**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Scripture Service

JAN **22**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

In state

JAN **23**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

SS Simon & Jude Catholic Church
32500 Palmer Road
Westland, MI 48185

Funeral Mass

JAN **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

SS Simon & Jude Catholic Church
32500 Palmer Road
Westland, MI 48185

Tribute Wall



“ *Clarice Joyce Vega*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I never met a truly beautiful person as Clarice!
I was the music director at Saint Richard's.
Clarice was one of my big supporters. She
knew how to read people and we hit it off right
off the bat!*

*People need to know Clarice was a priceless treasure! A shining
star on a pleasant night!*

Ken Groesbeck - 313.407.1915 / 248.862.0063

Ken Groesbeck - January 30, 2016 at 07:09 PM



“ *Anita Vega Scibiorski lit a candle in memory
of Clarice Joyce Vega*

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:13 PM



GS

“ Dear Clarice, Kenneths "big" sister, just a year older. Letting go is so hard to do. I just know Clarice went joyfully to take Kenneth's hand to go meet Grandma and Grandpa .

Clarice was always a person who remembered everyone with notes and cards. Sending a few mementos out here to Arizona sharing her and Kenneth's child hood. Every now and then her warm voice on the phone, sharing her life with me. Knowing she will be watching over her brood, she loved you all. Wishing we could have had more together time. Miles across the country make things a bit difficult. Sending much love and blessing, from Aunt Gloria

Gloria Smolenyak - January 23, 2016 at 12:06 PM

AS

Aunt Gloria, thank you for the beautiful sentiments. Your words are the BEST. See? I remembered...that's your maiden name!!

Much love to you,
Your niece Anita
XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 04:48 PM

PB

“ She was always so sweet, sending cards to me and my husband...birthdays and anniversaries...it touched my heart and each one made me feel special! But the ones that meant the most, were the out of the blue notes, with little cartoons or articles...Family Circus about big families, or home schooling💕💕💕💕 She was also a huge inspiration to me, to have a large family. I talked to her about it, and she taught me...you will never have enough money or a big enough house...and she said it with a sparkle in her eye...it was put live for her family...we just love this lady!

Paula Baird - January 23, 2016 at 06:49 AM

PB

"It was PURE LOVE for her family"

Paula Baird - January 23, 2016 at 06:56 AM

AS

*Thank you, my Paula!! Bless you & Eric for making the statewide trek to be with us for our final goodbye to our precious Mom, Clarice.
Love you much,
Anita
XOXOXO*

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 04:50 PM

“ To my Vega cousins.....I, we Smolenyak's know all too well the loss of those we love so much...loved your Mom, my Aunt Clarice...and your Dad, Uncle Jess...though not so much memory. So sad we couldn't have been closer cousins...too many years...too much distance...maybe so many cousins...how could we keep track? I remember well, Douglas, Keith (kind of always had a crush...love that recent pic of you and your Mom!), Mike, Linda (the oldest sister :)), Jessie, Laura, Anita, Matt, Loretta, but then, I'm afraid, I lost track... but we're all of the same blood. Remember very early Christmas's at Grandma and Grandpa's, probably before we got too large a crowd to fit...kind of sad we couldn't have remained closer. Your Mom stayed in touch many, many years with me, at my birthday, just after Christmas. As did Grandma...always remembering the day and time of my birth...amazing! Your Mom would tell me about how your family gathered for holidays at place large enough to accommodate your family...10 kids, spouses, children, grandchildren...WOW!!! There are 10 of you! Only 5 of us Smolenyak's...and all 5 of us were never together all at the same time from late 1970's until Granny's (your Uncle Kenneth's widow) 80th birthday - that was 5 years ago. Your Mom was 1 year and 1 day older than our Dad, Kenneth (Papa to all the grand kids). Maybe our family was just way too big...or maybe it was the religious differences that drove us apart - not separate, just distant...My thoughts and very fond memories are with you in your very raw loss...We've been there...your Mom's baby brother, Kenneth, gone now almost 18 years, just 2 years after Grandma, and both to the same pancreatic cancer. How cruel life can be. Your Mom lived a long full live, full of love, full of you, her children, and grandchildren. I see her face and remember, oh so much...Just read through Grandma's life story this week, really to your Mom, her daughter...Daughters are special...I know too well; I lost my daughter, Sarah Anne over 37 years ago...I think that's part of what kept your Mom and Grandma remembering me and keeping in touch, year after year... I love all you guys! Don't know you and your lives now, but blood runs strong. Your Mom loved her baby brother, my much loved, and much missed Dad, Kenneth (Ken, Kenneth,

Kenny, aka Papa)! Thinking much of all of you. Wishing you peace. Grandma, Luella, Grandpa, Michael, son Kenneth, and now daughter, Clarice, all gone...all together in the hereafter...whatever that is...leaving all us kids to live on... living full lives full of love for our own and for each other. Much love, your cousin Karen (Smolenyak) Hudson

Karen Hudson - January 22, 2016 at 11:20 PM

AS

Karen, that is beautiful! It's true, we really don't 'know' each other because of life's circumstances. But there's always LOVE. because we ARE FAMILY.

Bless you, cousin. 💕

Love, cousin Anita (#7!!!!)

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 04:45 PM

SK

“ *To Loretta & family,
I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. I'm sure she's reuniting with all her family and friends in Heaven. I haven't see you in many years but immediately I can vision your beautiful smile and sweet demeanor. You must have taken after your mother. God Bless and healing prayers. Love, Sue Kandel*

Suzan Kandel - January 22, 2016 at 06:21 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



January 22, 2016 at 02:48 PM

TF

“ *The Dan Gurta Family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



The Dan Gurta Family - January 22, 2016 at 12:24 PM

PH

“ *Penny Hatz purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



Penny Hatz - January 22, 2016 at 11:46 AM

CS

“ *Anita and all of the Vega family we are so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mom you lived across the street from us in Westland and Anita you babysat frequently for us. I was always amazed that there were 10 children growing up in that home coming from a family of 10 myself. You are a happy family and that is thanks to your loving Mom and Dad. Our prayers are with all of you at this sad time I am sure you all have the best memories and will share them with each other.*

Jeff and Cathy Soehnlein

Cathy Soehnlein - January 22, 2016 at 10:18 AM

AS

Cathy & Jeff, thank you for your kind and heartfelt condolences. We were truly blessed with a remarkable Mom. Your words are very comforting. Thank you, again.
Love,
Anita
XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 04:57 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



January 22, 2016 at 10:10 AM

AE

“ *Art Ashley and the employees of Ferndale Electric purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



Art Ashley and the employees of Ferndale Electric - January 22, 2016 at 10:06 AM

KW

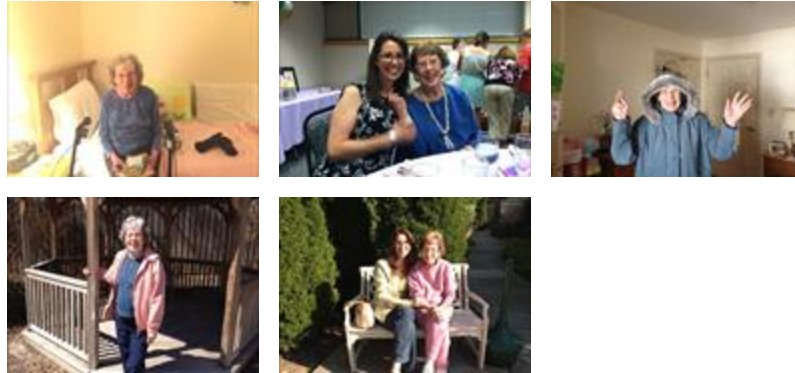
“ *Kurt & Shaun Whitehead purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



Kurt & Shaun Whitehead - January 22, 2016 at 08:40 AM

LS

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Laura Spadafora - January 22, 2016 at 08:35 AM

AS

Love these, Laura! 💕💕💕💕
Love YOU

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 04:58 PM

DV

“ *Anita, from your friends and family at Verant's Salon. We feel so blessed to have known your mum and so blessed to have you in our lives. Heartfelt prayers are sent to you and your family that you find peace knowing mum is home and in the the arms of our Father. Amen. We Love You, your Verant family.*

Delores Verant - January 22, 2016 at 06:34 AM

AS

That is so beautiful, Delores!
Love you much.
Love,
Anita
XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:00 PM

CF

“ Loretta

I would like to extend my deepest condolences on the loss of your mother. Losing a parent is one of the biggest losses that can be suffered by anyone. May you find God's presence with you as you journey through the time of grief.



Thinking of you, Mike and your families. <3

Connie Fein - January 21, 2016 at 09:45 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



mark scibiorski - January 21, 2016 at 09:26 PM

AS

LOVE!!! XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:01 PM

AS

Easter, but..."Whatever", right, Mom??!! 🍷 😊 🍷

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:12 PM

CM

“ Clarice (Mrs. Vega) was a neighbor across the street. I was amazed that she had 10 children. When I began my family (adopting) I turned to her for advice on how to raise a large family. She would cut articles out for me and sent a note along with loving advice. She was like a second mom. Moving further away made it hard to visit. But she was always on my mind and in my heart. I will miss the weekly pictures of her "hair days" (thank you Anita) and all of the Vega kids know how I feel. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love you Clarice, hugs to you and Mr. Till we meet again
{{{HUGS}}}

Cheryl Scott Manetta - January 21, 2016 at 09:17 PM

AS

Thank you, our 'sister' Cheryl! Bless you for being with us to say goodbye to our most precious Mom! Love you!
Love,
Anita
XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:04 PM



“ Anita and family....my heart aches for you. The pain is all too fresh for me. Praying you all find comfort in knowing your Mom is no longer suffering and is reunited with your dad. Prayers are being sent. Heaven has gained many angels this past week, may they watch over you, as you prepare to say goodbye as she enters eternal life. God bless.

Beth Singer-Morello - January 21, 2016 at 09:11 PM

AS

Thank you, Beth. That means a lot to me.
Love, Anita
XOXOXO

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



January 21, 2016 at 09:09 PM



“ *From the wife and children of Kenneth Smolenyak. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Clarice Joyce Vega.*



From the wife and children of Kenneth Smolenyak. - January 21, 2016 at 06:35 PM



“ *To all of my Vega first cousins. I'm so sorry your mom has passed away. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for all of you. Your mom was my Godmother. She always sent me a birthday card on my special day. . . . Diana Richard*

Diana Richard - January 21, 2016 at 04:43 PM



*Thank you, cousin Diana. Your message is so appreciated!
Bless you.
Love, Anita*

Anita Vega Scibiorski - January 23, 2016 at 05:09 PM