



Geraldine D. Franko

June 5, 1933 - November 24, 2021

Geraldine (Geri) Dorothy (Wesley) Franko, a longtime resident of Dearborn Michigan, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at Hope Hospice in Fort Myers, Florida.

She was born on June 5, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan to Theodore Wesley and Sophia Malinowski. Geri married Bill, the love of her life, on October 23, 1954. Geri had been dating his friend, but knew that Bill “was the one for her.” Their first date would begin their life together for 63-plus treasured years. When Bill was asked if he would ever change anything about their marriage, he replied “I would have married her sooner.” During their honeymoon, they started dressing to match each other -- just one of the many ways they showed their connection and love – along with dancing together, all their lives.

Bill and Geri were blessed with three wonderful daughters: Debbie (Danny Kaloupek) Franko of Newton MA, Cindy Franko, and Shari (Jeff Lucyk) Franko. When Bill retired in 1992, they began to split their time between Michigan and Florida, living the good life, staying warm in the winter, and making many friends. In her Florida neighborhood, Geri is fondly remembered as “the best baker in the building.” She shared her delicious chocolate chip cookies or warm banana bread with family, friends, and the mail carrier, whenever she had the chance. Geri was a generous and loving spirit with an infectious smile. She loved to take pictures to capture every moment of life. Whether small moments or big events, Geri was ready with her camera to make that minute into a memory. Her many friends remember her as a woman

of genuine goodness and loving kindness.

She opened up her home, and her heart, to friends and family alike throughout her life.

In addition to her children Debbie and Shari, Geri's love continues in life through her grandchildren, Jennifer (Dan) Pajot, Ben Franko Kaloupek, Emma Franko Kaloupek, great grandson Tiernan William Pajot, and her sister Diane Dutton and beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her daughter Cindy.

During her final days, Geri never complained. She kindly thanked every nurse and aid after they tended to her. She expressed gratitude every day and in every situation. Her final days were spent comfortably at Hope Hospice, surrounded by loved ones.

Visitation will be at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. in Westland, Michigan on Friday, December 10th from 3:00 to 8:00 pm (masks required).

She will lie in state at St. Valentine Catholic Church, 14841 Beech Daly, Redford, Michigan at 10:30 am until the 11:00 am Funeral Mass on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Donations in Geri's memory may be made to Hope Hospice <https://www.donate.hopehcs.org>

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

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 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

In state

DEC 11. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Valentine Catholic Church
14841 Beech Daly Road
Redford Charter Township, MI 48239

Funeral Mass

DEC 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Valentine Catholic Church
14841 Beech Daly Road
Redford Charter Township, MI 48239

Tribute Wall



“ *Geraldine D. Franko*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Shari Franko - December 15, 2021 at 07:33 AM



To Grandma, on the occasion of your 85th birthday, with love from Jennifer

Shari franko - December 31, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Shari Franko - December 13, 2021 at 10:09 PM



the wise words of an eleven year old!

shari franko - December 13, 2021 at 10:45 PM

EB

“ Eileen Blair purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



Eileen Blair - December 08, 2021 at 11:33 AM

SF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:45 AM

SF

Distanced during the pandemic, but always close at heart.

Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:49 AM

SF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:42 AM

SF

Sister LOVE. Geri is wrapped in a prayer shawl made by her sister Diane.

Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:48 AM

SF

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:35 AM

SF

Fenway, Red Sox spring training, Jet Blue Park. Geri was baseball's biggest fan!

Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:40 AM

SF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:31 AM

SF

My mom made friends with everyone. Michelle, her physical therapist, Edwin her OT, and the mail carrier, whom she often brought inside the house to feed.

Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:35 AM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:30 AM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:25 AM

SF

Bev Hoke and Geri. Best of friends and loving Heritage Palms neighbors. Golfers extraordinaires!

shari franko - December 08, 2021 at 12:31 AM

PW

“ Paul and Rachel Weller purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



Paul and Rachel Weller - December 07, 2021 at 01:21 PM

SF

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 06, 2021 at 11:46 PM

SF

Inez and Geri. Lifelong friends.

shari franko - December 07, 2021 at 11:42 AM

PD

“ Pete and Barb Donald purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



Pete and Barb Donald - December 06, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



December 06, 2021 at 10:52 AM

IH

“ My very best friend! How will I get along without you? All I have now are the many, many memories of our past: our marriages, births of our children, our kids growing up together, evenings playing cards with our husbands, daily breakfasts at Olympus restaurant, and so on, and so on. Oh how I am going to miss you, my dear friend! Save a spot for me in Heaven, so we can, once again, be together! Inez

Inez Hughes - December 06, 2021 at 10:07 AM

BH

Best friends from the moment we met. So many wonderful memories. Don and I with you and Bill playing golf together at Heritage Palms and so many other golf courses in our area. Our many evenings of eating dinner at favorite restaurants, or at the club. The Monday night parties. The many many times of you knocking at our door with everything from pancakes, waffles and delicious cookies. You were a kind wonderful friend and to everyone. I and everyone who knew you will miss you so very much. I send my love to you in heaven and please give Bill and Don hugs from me.

Beverly Hoke - December 07, 2021 at 06:38 PM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



shari franko - December 05, 2021 at 06:54 PM

SH

Gerri with her friend Mary Holt. Dinner out followed by a ballgame on TV. 10/31/21

sharifranko - December 05, 2021 at 07:07 PM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



shari franko - December 05, 2021 at 06:45 PM

VM

This is one of my favorite pictures because I've seen Geri walk with Bella and Bailey up and down our street many times, and always with a big smile and a 'Hi, Vickie!' and 'Hi, Whitney!' when I've met her walking with my dog. Such a friendly, sweet woman who will be truly missed. I consider myself blessed to have known her, and doubly blessed to have Shari and Jeff as my next door neighbors. Shari is a living tribute to her mom, sharing her sweet nature and strength of character, and she and Jeff have been so good to Geri. A beautiful family, for sure!

Vickie Monley - December 10, 2021 at 07:25 PM

NA

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

nancy - December 05, 2021 at 02:10 PM

BZ

“ *Your mom was a wonderful woman and I will miss seeing her in clinic. I am glad she was able to transition to hospice peacefully surrounded by family. Being both of your parent's physician over the years has been an incredible honor. Your family is one of the most memorable families I have ever had the honor of taking care of. Those types of interactions is what keeps me going when the going gets tough. Thank you so much and I will be thinking happy thoughts as you celebrate your Mother's life. Take care*
Bryan

Bryan Zweig - December 05, 2021 at 11:37 AM

DB

“ Shari, we are so sorry to hear that your mom has passed away. We will miss her sunny disposition and her big smile when we saw her. Christine, I, and Stella will sorely miss her. She always loved seeing Stella. Our sincerest sympathy for the passing of a beautiful woman.

Dan Benoit - December 04, 2021 at 11:41 PM

CW

“ Hello my friend. I have a lot of friends where I have met their husbands but never their parents . Between the salon and my working at Winkelman's I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know both of yours. Your dad and mom were warm and friendly ,kind hearted ,and full of smiles. They always made me feeli good inside. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. There is peace in our hearts when we believe in God.

Cheryl Waldrop - December 04, 2021 at 11:37 PM

CD

“ Shari - My heart goes out to you and Jeff. I am very proud of you for showing your mother the best life possible. She showed you how to share love with others and you did. You have been the best daughter any mom could ask for. Hold on to that thought forever, as your mother will always be with you. Love you

Cathie Dinco - December 04, 2021 at 11:29 PM

RS

“ Your mom was an inspiration to me! Her lovely smile, warm, friendly and calm personality charmed me each time I was with her. I know she is nestling next to your dad, laying here head upon his shoulder and smiling up at him. God has His arms wrapped lovingly around them both. You are a loving daughter and I offer you my deepest sympathy and love. God Bless you and your family,

Sincerely,

Rosann Salvaggio - December 04, 2021 at 11:25 PM

TC

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. What great memories you must have of your wonderful mother! She was a delight to be around. Prayers for peace and comfort for your entire family.

Tom Constance - December 04, 2021 at 11:22 PM

LB

“ Geri (my neighbor) was a very upbeat lady who loved to make people happy by cooking and baking. I first met her 20 years ago as “Stormie’s mom”. She was a humble, down to earth woman. It is absolutely correct about “her genuine goodness and loving kindness” ! I am so sorry for your loss and for all of our loss. I am glad her transition was peaceful. I hope she is reunited with the Bill she loved so much and with her baby, Stormie. She will be missed.

Sincerely,
Linda

Linda Beahn - December 04, 2021 at 11:20 PM

RG

“ So sorry to hear the news of your mothers passing. She was a grand lady who will be missed. She had such a pleasant smile! May the joy and love that your mother brought to all of you, continue as you remember her rich and magnificent life.

Warmest regards

Ralph and Ellen

Ralph Gaudet - December 04, 2021 at 11:17 PM

ND

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your mom's death. She was beautiful on the inside and outside. She loved your kind dad so, and your grief can be helped by knowing they are together bowling in heaven. She loved her family. I hope the closeness that you have shared with her will comfort you and your family in your memories. Love, Nancy Donahue

Nancy Donahue - December 04, 2021 at 07:03 PM

GF

“ So sorry for your loss. You have my deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother. I'm glad to hear that she didn't suffer. Now she will be with your dad, the tootsie roll man. Such a great couple. You were so lucky to have such great parents!

Gail Fagan - December 04, 2021 at 07:00 PM

PL

“ I will always remember your mom and dad at the Race for the Cure, sitting high in that pink chair. I believe that are together doing that again. I am so sorry for your loss. So happy you got to spend so much quality time with your mom. What a blessing. Love you my friend. Continued prayers for you and your family.

Paula Lagerstrom - December 04, 2021 at 02:50 PM

DH

“ I'll always remember the big smile every time I saw her, and the many times she put a baggie or napkin full of freshly baked cookies in my hand, as I walked by her condo, God's blessing to you and your family.

Dennis Hicks - December 04, 2021 at 02:48 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



December 03, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



December 02, 2021 at 12:34 PM

SF

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 02, 2021 at 03:01 AM

SF

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 01, 2021 at 09:07 PM

SF

The Ashwoods - Beth and Glan from Yeovil England. Two of the loveliest friends the Franko family could ever meet. Mom must have missed him, as she followed so closely after. Rest In Peace dear Glan. Thank you for your friendship.

Shari Franko - December 02, 2021 at 02:53 AM

SF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 01, 2021 at 09:04 PM

SF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 01, 2021 at 09:01 PM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Shari Franko - December 01, 2021 at 08:58 PM

DB

“ Geri’s obituary describes her perfectly. She was a beautiful, giving woman with a heart of gold. My husband, Bob and I live above her in Fort Myers. I would ask her occasionally if we were making to much noise and she ALWAYS said, no, enjoy your condo. We could not have asked for better neighbors. It was also a treat that she so graciously shared her baked goods too. Her love of life and friends was infectious—she always had a smile and a positive attitude. Geri would text me pictures of her beautiful, loving family that I loved getting. They always made me smile! The pictures of her great grandson, Tiernan, were especially heartwarming. I will miss her sending me pictures. Geri was always suggesting tv shows and movies to us. We shared a love of those. Geri and Bill were just perfect together and we are glad they found each other too. We loved them both and will miss them and their beautiful smiles. They are “together again” now in the arms of our Lord and Savior. Thank you for the love and joy you brought to our lives. Rest In Peace, dear Geri. Miss you forever. Love, Debbie and Bob Baker

Debbie Baker - December 01, 2021 at 04:19 PM

CK

“ Cindy and Karen purchased the Sweet Tenderne
ss for the family of Geraldine D. Franko.



Cindy and Karen - December 01, 2021 at 04:00 PM

SF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shari Franko - December 01, 2021 at 02:18 PM

GN

Precious ♡

Geri's Niece Jill See from Lake Norman N - December 01, 2021 at 02:25 PM

BA

Glan and I met Bill and Geri fourteen years ago when we first hired Shari and Deb's condo. We clicked immediately, Glan spent many happy hours playing golf with Bill while Geri and I would go out together somewhere then join up for lunch at the clubhouse. Due to covid we had not been for two years but I shall never forget my best friend, our long conversations, her kindness and cheerfulness, she was one very special lady who I shall miss horribly and if Glan were here now, he died two months ago, he would reiterate every word.

Geri you are now at peace in Heaven with your beloved Bill, I love you.

beth ashwood - December 01, 2021 at 03:12 PM