



Harriet Martha Spurlin

July 28, 1930 - December 25, 2024

Spurlin, Harriet Martha December 25, 2024 age 94 of Farmington Hills. Beloved wife of the late Daniel. Loving mother of Anthony, Eric (Alcesa), the late Sam and the late David Backos. Proud grandmother of six and great grandmother of nine. Visitation Friday, December 27th 2-9 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Saturday, December 28th 10:30 AM at the funeral home. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

DEC 28. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JL

“ My name is Jim Laginess I worked with Harriet at Cooper with Bill Reese who recently passed as well. I worked with her for 10 yrs and she took care of all of us! She was kind and the nicest person who could ever know. We had a lot of good times and laughs! She never missed a Bday always had cakes from Elite Sweets. We also enjoyed the times we had with Dan as well! God Bless! 🙏 Love Jim 3138190024

James Laginess - February 06, 2025 at 10:52 AM

“ Harriet Martha Victor was born July 28, 1930. Her parents Anthony (Tony) and Eleni had 4 children, Bill, Mary, Harriet and Thomas Victor. Harriet was raised in Akron Ohio. Harriet's father Toni came to America as a stow away on a ship from Greece. Toni came from a poor family in Greece. At the age of 11 he was told by the family that they could no longer afford to feed him. He did not want to leave his family but he had no choice.

Tony found work in America and became successful. He owned a Bar, a Gas Station and other large buildings that he rented out. Tony remarried after his original wife Eleni passed. Tony did not believe in Wills, therefore in his passing everything was left to his second wife. The only thing passed to his children were his cloths.

Harriet wanted to go to college but was denied by her father. She married Nick Backos an accountant and had 4 children Anthony, Eric, Sam and Dan. She worked as an Executive Secretary at Ford Motor. Harriet and Nick divorced around the early seventies. She married Daniel Spurlin. Daniel had 2 young children from his previous marriage Linda and Kevin who Harriet helped to raise. Dan was a very successful Engineer at Ford Motor Company.

Dan was Harriet's greatest love. He was smart and talented. He could sing, dance, build homes, fix cars. He built a house up north pretty much by himself in Gaylord. He planned to move up North with Harriet. Harriet decided she did not want to live up North, she wanted to be by her children. Dan and Harriet raised Linda and Kevin in Livonia. Dan eventually passed from cancer. At the time Dan developed cancer Harriet was relying on him to compensate for issues Harriet was having with her memory. When Dan passed, Harriet needed help and was accepted at Vickie's Group home where she stayed and was taken cared of for the last 3 years of her life.

Harriet was always told by her father that she was not smart. She wanted to go the college but was denied by her father. Her first

husband Nick was smart but was not competitive. Money and social status was not so important to him. He was a home body and raised the children. Harriet settled down with her second husband Daniel. They traveled together. Went to Florida vacations yearly. She loved to go out to eat and loved dancing. Her Brother Thomas and her won many dance contests. They wanted to pursue competitive dancing but their Dad refused to allow it. Dan was the love of her life. They went to church together and typically went to Big Boys with Linda and Kevin after church. They traveled, went out for dinner. Dan enjoyed cooking on the out side grills during warm weather. He planted a garden with tomatoes, corn and vegetables.

I was always surprised that my Mom was so very street smart. When there was a conflict with someone she could strip them bare with her tongue. You could not push her around. She was amazing how she could turn someones words against them and put them in their place.

She was very protective of her children and aggressively protected them. She was a "street fighter". Mom was raised to become a fighter. She even literally boxed which was encouraged by her brothers.

Where ever she was she controlled the environment she was the life of the party. I understand she was an excellent Executive Secretary yet she may never have felt the recognition from her father and this for her was sad.

We all experienced expecially as children and adolescents her toughness and discipline in the way she knew how.

But as we all grew older and wiser, we all began to unerstand how much she indeed was faithful and loyal to her family.

When it came to a fight between the world verses us / mom's family, it was always clear whose side she was on.

We may not always have realized it then or soon enough, but you

indeed fought for us mom. And in your own tough way loved us very much! We miss you.

Eric Backos

Eric Backos - December 27, 2024 at 10:25 AM

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“ *HARRIET MARTHA SPURLIN - Stories and Memories from niece, HELEN (ELENI) : Helen (Eleni), niece, remembers Aunt Harriet when she was babysitting her when she was about 3 years old. While Aunt Harriet was on the telephone, Eleni (Helen) went up and got the scissors, and cut her front curl off her hair. The curl landed on the floor, and Eleni was quiet. Aunt Harriet soon discovered what had happened. Aunt Harriet remarked, "Oh, Eleni, what did you do? What am I going to tell your mother? I cannot glue it on!" Mary (Aunt Harriet's sister) came home, and she explained about the missing curl. Mary (her sister) asked her, "Harriet, were you on the phone?"*

Irene Lucas Katsias - December 27, 2024 at 09:48 AM