



BETTE J. NAFFIE

*“Dancing faces you toward Heaven,
whichever direction you turn.”*

Bette J. Naffie, 83, of Manistee, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, died unexpectedly but peacefully at her home May 26, 2011.

Born September 11, 1927 in Bay City, Michigan, she was the daughter of Frederick and Marie (Birk) Siegrist. She began dance lessons at the age of seven and later became part of the Jolly Bunch Club, a group of young women from Bay City who sang and danced on tour during the 40's and early 50's at different theaters throughout Michigan. One year they performed for the governor on Mackinac Island. In 1947 she married Dominic Rocke Naffie in Bay City and in 1952 they moved to Manistee where they raised ten children. She continued her love of dance by choreographing several shows at the Ramsdell Theater and on her 80th birthday put on her tap shoes and danced for her family.

To many, Bette was a Manistee icon. She was an active community member who believed in helping those in need. She volunteered for countless fundraisers and events and many will remember her and Dominic preparing their famous spaghetti and meatballs for hundreds of people. If you wanted something done, you asked Bette. She served for over 30 years as a board member for the Salvation Army and Manistee Catholic Central. Her greatest pride was in being a mother and her greatest joy was being married to Dominic and sharing their family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Dominic, two daughters, Carol J. (Ron) Steinberg and Marilyn K. Naffie, one son, David M. Naffie, son-in-law Ron Steinberg, four brothers: Eugene, Robert, Edward and Fred Siegrist and two sisters: Marion Kerr and Thelma Priser.

Surviving are her children: Jennie M. (Richard Oman) Naffie of Muskegon, Michael F. Naffie of Muskegon, Anne T. Mirretti of Ludington, Catherine A. (Jim Peterson) Lewis of Ludington, Dominic R. Naffie Jr. of Muskegon, Mark A. (Tammy) Naffie of Midland and James P. Naffie, Muskegon.

She is also survived by her grandchildren: Douglas J. (Noriko) Plamondon, Elizabeth V. (Greg Tawney) Niemeyer, Cara E. (Zach) Mitchell, Jonathan D. (Tami) Mirretti, Andrea M. Mirretti, Dominic R. Naffie III, David A. Naffie, Carolyn A. Mirretti, Aaron M. Lewis, Katherine L. Naffie and great-grandchildren Sandra J. Plamondon, Christa E. Plamondon, Rylan J. Mirretti, Jayden C. Mirretti and

Alexis E. Mitchell. She is also survived by one sister, Marie "Tootsie" (Eugene) Case of Lansing, brother-in-law Corato (Conny) Naffie of Saginaw and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Mass from the Order of Christian funerals will be celebrated at 10 am Friday June 3, 2011 in Manistee at Guardian Angels Catholic Church, 371 Fifth St., with Reverend Bartoszek celebrant. Burial of Bette's cremated remains will take place at a later date. Bette's family will receive friends at the church on Thursday from 6 to 9 pm with a prayer service at 8 pm. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Manistee Catholic Central, Guardian Angels Church or the Salvation Army.

Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.