



Dolores Tabaczka, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend, age 86, of Manistee, was welcomed by her heavenly Father, March 24, while surrounded by the love of her family.

She was born April 8, 1923 in Manistee to the late Joseph and Mary (Siuda) Switalski. She married Harry S. (Jerry) Tabaczka on April 2, 1945 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee.

Dolores graduated from Manistee High School, Class of 1940. Ever open to learning more about life and all that it offered she attended West Shore Community College. She worked for Koehler Brothers in Saginaw and retired from the Manistee County Department of Social Services as Office Manager in 1980. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America #496, the St. Joseph Parish Rosary Society and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary #4499. She was a communicant of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Manistee. Dolores was a lifelong family historian, documenting the personal side of what is important in life, and a published poet.

She was a county girl at heart and loved all of God's beautiful creations. She was often recognized as the Flower Lady for her tireless work with the Blossoms on the Boulevard that graced U.S. 31. She created numerous books of poetry shared with her family over the years and authored a family children's book.

Dolores is survived by: her three daughters, Colleen (and David) Berns of Manistee; Kathleen (and Dennis) Cromer of Manistee, Lynn (and James) DeOrdio of Arlington, Texas; her four sons, Larry Tabaczka of Manistee, Ron Tabaczka of Big Sky, Montana, Jerry (Jane) Tabaczka of Manistee, James Tabaczka of Grand Haven; her grandchildren: Kevin (Gretchen) and Aaron Tabaczka all of Manistee, Ryan (Erin) Tabaczka of Lowell, Katie (Bjorn) Olsen of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Maureen Tabaczka of Orlando, Florida, Kenneth (Kerrye) Tabaczka of Longwood, Florida, Christine (Michael) Garrett of Rochester, Matthew (Rhonda) Berns of Lansing, Laura (Darol) Stacy of Wyoming, Jill Tabaczka of Charlevoix and Jenna Tabaczka of Phoenix, Arizona; great-grandchildren: Skylar, Zachary, Alec, Jolie, Conner, Anna, Noah, Eli and Kennedy; Aunts Rose Miller and Rita Siuda; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dolores was preceded in death by husband Harry S. (Jerry) and infant daughter, Karen Anne, as well as brothers Edward, Richard, Ralph, Jerome and Robert Switalski and sisters Gertrude Matzelle and Margaret Mathewson.

According to her wishes, Dolores' body has been donated to the University of Michigan Medical School. There will be no funeral service at this time, but there will be a celebratory Mass in honor of Dolores on Saturday, March 27, 11:00 a.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Interment and services for the celebration of Dolores' exceptional life will be at a later date.

She has also requested that we all be happy and, as her family sat with her in her final hours on this earth, we all promised to do our best to be so. Included in her many writings is the following bequest:

“If I should die today,” she said,
“I'd leave my heart with thee.

I'd give thee all the precious thoughts
To live in memory.

I'd leave the sun, the moon and stars
Which give you warmth and light.
I'd leave the trees which give you shade
And flowers so sweet and bright.

I'd leave you peace of mind because
You've meant so much to me. I'd want you to be happy and
From sorrow to be free.

So ...

I leave my smile to each of you
And this to you I'd say,
'May it make others' cares be few
If I should die today'.”

Memorials in her honor may be made to the Manistee County Medical Care Facility, St. Joseph Catholic Church (Catholic Community of Manistee), Manistee Catholic Central Schools or the Manistee County Historical Museum. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Gratitude is expressed by the family to those who so kindly cared for Dolores including Dr. Joel Anhalt, Dr. Malinda Bell and the staff and wonderful caregivers at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility. Many of these have been welcomed by Harry (Jerry) and Dolores Tabaczka as honorary members of the Tabaczka family.

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