



Maria M. Warwell

December 15, 1925 - March 3, 2012

Saint Joseph, Maria Magdalena Warwell, nee Kaefer, 86 years of age, passed away Saturday, March 3rd from a short illness with her family present.

Services celebrating her life will be held at 3 PM on Wednesday, March 7, at the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph. Burial will be in Lakeshore-Hagar Cemetery. The family will receive friends and relatives from 2 PM to 3 PM on Wednesday at the Dey-Florin Chapel. Please share memories, messages and photos at www.florin.net. Donations may be made to 'The Citadel Dance and Music Center' in Benton Harbor. Music was Maria's love and contributions for those needing financial assistance for music lessons would be greatly appreciated.

Maria was born on December 15, 1925 in Alexandrowka, Ukraine, about 50 miles from Odessa. She married Kurt Friederich Warwell in 1956 in Gronau, Germany. In Germany, their first three children were born, Harry, Esther and Johanna, and their wanderlust took them to Australia. There they lived two years and during that time their fourth child, Lynette was born. They heard of many German church friends moving to St. Joseph, so they took another leap of faith and moved to the U.S.A. Their fifth and final child, Gloria was born here and this is where they made their permanent home.

Maria retired from Gerber Corporation in Three Oaks but held various jobs in

her lifetime. She was a Russian and German tutor and she worked in clothing and various retail positions. She ran a successful fruit stand on M-63 and enjoyed her customers. She loved the Lord and was one of the leaders of the music ministry at the Washington Avenue Church of God. She held positions as pianist, vocalist, and orchestra director.

Maria leaves behind her five children, her son, Harry (Sheila) Warwell, of NC; her daughter, Esther (Colin) Freel, of GA; her daughter, Johanna (Abe) Froese, of OR; her daughter, Lynette (Scott) Braddock, of Stevensville; and her daughter, Gloria (Douglas) W. Oberst, of Benton Harbor; her adopted son, Nikolay (Olga) Tomalay, of Stevensville; her brother, Karl Kaefer, of FL; her sister, Emma, of Germany . She also leaves behind 13 delightful grandchildren, and 6 great-grand-children which were the sunshine in her life. Maria was preceded in death by her husband, Kurt F. Warwell; her sister, Else Schmidtgall; her sister, Adele Kaefer; and her dear grand-son, John J. Froese.

Cemetery Details

Lakeshore Hagar Cemetery

Eaman Road
Hagar Township, MI 49022

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Service

MAR 7. 3:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Burial

MAR 7. 4:45 PM (ET)

Lakeshore Hagar Cemetery
Eaman Road
Hagar Township, MI 49022

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



G. Oberst - March 09, 2012 at 09:56 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



G. Oberst - March 09, 2012 at 09:51 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



G. Oberst - March 09, 2012 at 09:47 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



G. Oberst - March 09, 2012 at 09:40 AM

JA

“ *"Oma" was a wonderful lady and one of many talents. She shared her love and knowledge with others. She had a strength the women of her generation needed, especially during war times and poverty. May her family and loved ones be comforted at this time.*

Jackie Allard - March 08, 2012 at 10:43 PM

DH

I worked with Maria at Gerber. She came to my wedding also. She was a wonderful woman! I will miss her! God bless you Maria! RIP!

Debbie Height - December 06, 2022 at 10:26 PM

CR

“ *Lynette, Johanna, Esther, Gloria, Harry and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a very special lady. Her smile and laughter was contagious. I will always remember her in our church orchestra. She had us play the song "The church in the wildwood." It must of been one of her favorite songs, cause we played it quite a bit. What wonderful memories! Your mom is now with your dad. My prayers and love goes out to you all. May God comfort you all and may you know your mom was loved and touched many people including myself.
Christel (Kemper) Ramsey*

Christel Ramsey - March 07, 2012 at 08:05 AM

RL

“ *Thoughts and prayers to Maria's family.*
- *Ron Leuty*

Ron Leuty - March 07, 2012 at 03:28 AM