



Shirley B. Bongiorno

November 23, 1918 - December 2, 2013

Shirley B. Bongiorno, 95, of Stevensville, died Monday, December 2, 2013 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Family services will be held at later date and cremation has taken place. Memorials may be made to the Berrien County Cancer Service. Arrangements are by the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Shirley was born on Nov 23, 1918 in Wayne County, West Virginia to John and Bertha Cornwell. She worked at Schuler's Restaurants for 17 years and then as Personnel Manager at K Mart before she retired in 1984. During WWII she played baseball in the semi pro league for Auto Specialties. Shirley enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, dancing, collecting ceramic kittens and cooking her famous pies. She was an independent hardworking person who was always giving to her family and loved attending their sporting events.

She is survived by her children, Beverly (Larry) Brunke of Sun City, FL, Thomas (Betty) Bongiorno of Benton Harbor, and Randy (Jane) Bongiorno of Stevensville; her 9 grandchildren, and her 13 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her 3 brothers, Paul, Cecil and Harry Cornwell

Tribute Wall

“ My grandma was very special to me! I will miss her so much. I was very blessed that she was such a big part of my life. Growing up she always made me feel so important because she wanted to spend time with me. I have many memories of her, but I would like to share some of my favorites....



- going on dinner dates with her and Daren once a year
- staying the night at her house and getting to sleep with her in her big bed with the silky blue sheets.
- waking up with her at 4:00AM, drinking coffee, and eating her hard crust toast with lots of butter.
- listening to her stories about when my dad was a little boy (my favorite one is when she was walking her big dog and the dog started running to chase after something and grandma held on to that leash and the dog pulled little ol' grandma across the front yard, as my dad just sat there watching and laughing.) That story always made me laugh.
- Playing skip-bo with her
- Going over to her apartment for family dinners and eating her AMAZING cooking and DELICIOUS pies. Holy cow, my grandma could cook/bake, one of the best I know!
- Her coming to watch me play softball.

I was very blessed that she wanted to come cheer me on during the many years of softball. She would bring her little green cushion, set it on the bleachers and watch many of my games. I don't think I ever expressed to her how much it really meant to me that she not only attended my games but thoroughly enjoyed watching me play. When it came to softball I always looked up to her because when she was young she played on a semi-pro team during WWII. She was quite athletic! I always thought that was so cool!!! Every time I watch my favorite movie 'A League of Their Own' it reminds me of my grandma.

I wish I would have gotten to say goodbye to her and give her one

last hug, but I know heaven just received another angel and she is getting to do all of the things she loved like snuggle Spider the cat, do crossword puzzles, bake pies, and most importantly dance the night away!

Grandma, I love you very much and you will be missed dearly. You will live on forever in my thoughts and many wonderful memories.

*~Josie Nelson :)
or as grandma would say 'Joser'*

Josie Nelson - December 04, 2013 at 10:38 PM