



Cynthia Mary Kozlowski

March 8, 1945 - February 3, 2021

Cynthia Mary Kozlowski, age 75, of Sterling Heights passed away on February 3rd, 2021. She was born on March 8th, 1945 in Detroit to the late Harry and Julia (née Goralczyk) Hoppe.

She graduated from Immaculata High School in 1963 and attended the University of Detroit. Both institutions shaped her true passions: Language, Laughter and one David Mark Kozlowski.

In the fall of 1961, Cynthia allowed David to take her on their first date, to the Immaculata Dance, followed by a meal at Big Boy, where she ordered a Slim Jim sandwich. Over the following years, they broke up now and again, with a significant factor being Dave's desire for automobile cleanliness. After reconciliations, the couple would dine at Lou Rosa's or Buddy's Pizza. In April 1969, Cynthia decided it was OK for Dave to marry her and they did on July 12th, 1969.

The matriarch's family grew by a son in 1970. The toughness of Cynthia is exemplified by her accepting the most improved bowler award at the banquet on the night before he was born. Her family grew again in 1973, with another son. That year, she left her job at Detroit Receiving Hospital to raise her family at home, but Cynthia couldn't sit still for too long. In 1978, the crew moved to the Mount Vernon Drive enclave of Sterling Heights. In 1979, she joined the Troy Beaumont hospital staff, where she excelled at telling highly trained Medical Doctors how they could improve patient care by speaking into the transcription devices more clearly and writing things down more legibly. After 28 years of faithful service, over which her ability to turn a phrase made indelible impressions on many of her co-workers and friends, she retired.

In the 1980s, after working a full day, she would come home and start her real job of raising a family. Unfortunately for Cynthia, the kitchen would often need cleaning before her dinner prep could begin, thanks to the messes left by her two dupa sons. A sampling of her signature dishes includes homemade cheese and potato pierogis, kapusta, mini rieben appetizers and the ultimate holiday treat, apricot cookies. Cynthia's menu was

endless, and her joy came from feeding others. Dave is heartbroken that she will no longer be with him to guide dinner for two. However, her sons and their wives will ensure Cynthia's recipes continue to be enjoyed by her brood over the coming years. Cynthia's "vacations" Up-North to the family cabin rarely felt relaxing, thanks to assignment of projects by Julia upon arrival at the cabin. But visits to the Moon Lake pool allowed her to unwind.

When back home, Cynthia loved to organize backyard bonfires for neighborhood friends, as well as pre-Homecoming dance get togethers for her sons, their friends and dates. A typical bonfire might include three-legged races or a neighbor breaking his leg after climbing on the roof. Cynthia's parties brought people together and her ability to make fast friends, crack wise and enjoy the moment will cause all of us to miss her terribly.

Cynthia used the 1990s to help her sons grow more and to travel. From 1990-1992, she was President of the Henry Ford II Athletic Boosters Club, where she ensured the successful execution of the annual Craft Show fundraising event. She flew to Poland with her mother, and visited California twice with her soulmate, while her oldest son Dave was stationed at Los Angeles Air Force Base. Actually, she flew to Los Angeles another time in the 1950s, when she was a child and Disneyland was a nascent amusement park.

Her youngest son earned a scholarship to play football at Central Michigan, and the couple never missed being at home or away games for Jim. 1994 was her most memorable season rooting for the Chippewas, when she watched the Chips beat Bowling Green in the last minutes of the 4th quarter to win the MAC championship. She then attended the Las Vegas Bowl to watch Jim start in a nationally televised bowl game. She and Dave also visited historical sites such as Gettysburg, Williamsburg, Alexandria and Washington DC later that decade, as well as Hershey, PA. The couple had planned to visit New York City in the fall of 2012, but could not due to Hurricane Sandy.

Cynthia and Dave loved to take annual trips to Duck Lake, Harsens Island and Florida, to spend time with friends. She played cards with her Immaculata High Beta Sigma Chi sisters throughout her life. Well, sometimes they played cards, but often it was a gab session. These bonds defined Cynthia and her sisters will have a hard time carrying on without her.

Cynthia's family tree grew deeper into the millennium, with two granddaughters and five grandsons added to the clan from 2000 to 2007. Her vision to dress the grandkids in matching outfits for annual Christmas photos are priceless keepsakes. 2018 was the final sitting with her beloved Dave and grandchildren, and it will be cherished forever. This is so

bittersweet, as we now wish we could capture just one more photo with her. We plan to honor her memory with future photo shoots.

Cynthia's winning percentage playing Scrabble and Words with Friends was approximately 98 percent. It probably would have been higher, if her opponents didn't use the internet to find answers. She always knew when others were getting help; she never needed it. Her vocabulary skills were so superior that she even won a contest to name the indoor water slides at Lakeside Mall, earning the kids water slide passes and a new computer.

Jolly Ranchers were always in her pockets, so she could share with her grandkids. She did not want to be a "Butt-in-ski" mother-in-law. Her two daughters-in-law agree she never was, and in fact her guidance was always spot on. She was more generous than Dave would have preferred when it came to showering her family with gifts, and that peccadillo may cause him to long for her even more.

One thing Cynthia could have improved was her ability at keeping track of her user names and passwords. Her method of using scraps of paper and margins in her notebook to stay organized drove her family crazy when she needed help logging back in to games like Candy Crush. But that is what made her special; her methods made sense to her and if she wasn't feeling it or if something didn't come naturally, we would just forget trying to convince her, because she had already made up her mind.

She and Dave were devoted members of St. Paul of Tarsus Catholic Church. She marveled at St. Josaphat, Sweetest Heart of Mary and Old St Mary's in Downtown when they passed those classic Catholic Churches on their way to the Detroit Opera House or Fisher Theater to see a show. Other trips to the city included authentic experiences at Polish Village Café, Polonia Restaurant or Lafayette, the one true Coney Island. Cynthia is survived by her devoted husband and soulmate of 51 years, Dave; her loving sons, Dave (Kristie), Jim (Jen); her brother Jerry Hoppe (Marie); and her 7 grandchildren; Jake, Luke, Josh, Rachel, Jack, Jayden and Becca.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Let us not commemorate her passing with sadness, but with joy. It's what she would have wanted. Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons will cremate her body; her ashes will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township. A memorial service and celebration of her life are being planned for later this year, when larger gatherings of friends and family are able to fulfill Cynthia's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for tribute donations in her name to Michigan Opera

Theater at <https://cart.michiganopera.org/donate/i/4> or St Paul of Tarsus Catholic Church at <https://stpauloftarsus.weshareonline.org>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ It goes without saying that Cynthia’s life is read between the dash 1945 - 2021, The dash indicates the triumphs and accomplishments she endured within this time. She was a SPECIAL lady, devoted wife, mother, and friend. Rest In Peace my friend!

Ken and Chris Malek

Chris Malek - February 18, 2021 at 06:06 PM

LG

“ I will always cherish the memories and pictures I have of me and my sister Julie as flower girls for David & Cynthia’s wedding in 1969. She was a wonderful loving woman and will be sorely missed

Lee Goralczyk-Greenhill - February 08, 2021 at 11:24 PM

PV

“ What I will miss most is the spirited conversations Cynthia and I had regarding politics. She was a die-hard Trump supporter and I was not. When we would gather for lunch with the pinochle group I was told not to bring up politics, but sometimes I couldn't resist. God Bless you Cynthia and your family. I will miss you. Pat Vesnaugh

Pat Vesnaugh - February 08, 2021 at 08:37 PM