



## Julia Elizabeth LaPonse

April 2, 1934 - July 15, 2021

LAPONSE, JULIA E. Age 87 July 15, 2021. Beloved wife of the late William G. Loving mother of William P. (Deborah) LaPonse, Kathleen (William) Gerus-Darbison, Patrick LaPonse, Francis (Janie) LaPonse, Pamela (Matthew) Foote & Sean (Cindy) LaPonse & former daughter in law Roberta LaPonse. Proud grandmother of 17 and great grandmother of 18. Dear daughter of the late John A. & Frances C. Radachy. Dearest sister of the late John Paul Radachy. Julia was involved with both the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan and the National Hemophilia Foundation. Visitation Friday 3-9pm with Evening Rosary. Funeral Saturday 11:00am at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile (Shelby Township). Donations in Julia's honor are welcome to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @ [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **23.** 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. Shelby Township  
54880 VanDyke Ave  
Shelby Township, MI 48316

## Funeral Service

JUL **24.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. Shelby Township  
54880 VanDyke Ave  
Shelby Township, MI 48316

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ Mom (Julia) and Dad (Bill) accepted me into their home and family when I was a young exchange student and I was at my most vulnerable. They made me feel like I belonged to their already large extended family. They took me with them to Pennsylvania and their country house in Michigan and introduced me to the US in a way I never would have known. They made me realize I wanted to live in this country, and I owe so much to them. My time with them was one of the most important chapters in my life and will remember them with love always.

Sanja Pantic - August 02, 2021 at 02:43 PM

FR

“ Not so many have been the days we spent together, but the brief times, in different parts of the world( Michigan, Brussels, Paris, Santa Rosa Beach... what am I forgetting?) over several decades, were always pleasant.

Frans - July 26, 2021 at 12:10 PM

KS

“ Julie’s home was always open and welcoming no matter the time of day. There was always a cup of tea ready for you and a few cookies to enjoy. No matter your mood when you arrived, you left with a light heart and peaceful soul. She enjoyed traveling and entertained us with tales of her experiences so that we felt we were there with here. She loved her family with abandon and opened her heart to all. The world is truly a better place because of Julie.  
Kathy Schoonover

kathy Schoonover - July 23, 2021 at 11:23 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 23, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.*



July 23, 2021 at 08:33 AM

FL

“ *We were very lucky to have two great parents. Dad was stern and quiet; Mom was the one who usually did the talking. They complimented each other's weaknesses. She was the Ying to Grandpa's Yang. I just wanted to let every know how much we loved her. She wasn't perfect, but she was Mom. She was always there if you needed her and was very kind. She would probably give a stranger the shirt off her back, but you wouldn't want cross her, and get on her bad side. She could talk to anyone and make them feel at home. Or go on about something, or someone she didn't like incessantly. If she had a flaw, that was it. That was her sin. She was all about family, friends, and staying together. We can take comfort in the fact that she passed peacefully in her sleep after visiting with my brother Bill. She is with Dad, grandpa, grandma, Uncle John, and the others we've lost now. She will be missed, but if you miss her, look at me, or one of my siblings. We are half her, after all. Goodbye for now, Mom.*

Francis LaPonse - July 22, 2021 at 07:59 PM

LC

“ *Love, the Champagne Cousins purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.*



Love, the Champagne Cousins - July 22, 2021 at 12:49 PM

AA

“ *Julia was a very loving, thoughtful lady who always went above and beyond with everything she did for our family. She always had a positive attitude. We will miss her loving, caring and always sweet smile. Alice and Terry Avery*

Alice Avery - July 21, 2021 at 10:03 AM

SZ

“ 1 file added to the album



sharon zbizek - July 20, 2021 at 10:16 PM

SZ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



sharon zbizek - July 20, 2021 at 10:11 PM

SZ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



sharon zbizek - July 20, 2021 at 10:11 PM

CM

“ Cousins, Tom/Sharon Zbizek & Sue Mayeran purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



Cousins, Tom/Sharon Zbizek & Sue Mayeran - July 20, 2021 at 09:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 20, 2021 at 06:01 PM

SL

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



sean J LaPonse - July 20, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 20, 2021 at 11:55 AM



“ Celestial Love was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 20, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 20, 2021 at 10:15 AM

GP

“ My Aunt Julie was one of a kind. She was loving, thoughtful and funny as heck. She will be missed, but I know she is reunited with my Uncle Bill.

Gina Padilla - July 20, 2021 at 12:03 AM

NV

“ Nothing but good memories! I have been so lucky to have had two sets of parents. Bill and Julia gave me such a warm welcome in 1974 and have given me their love ever since. At that time I did not realize what it is to raise such a big family. Mom definitely was a good organizer. But certainly it seemed easy because mom and dad were such a good team and had such a big heart. Imagine having six lively kids and taking two extra teenagers in the house and giving them also the attention they needed. Sorry for the younger kids that I was chatting so often with mom.

I arrived end of August and immediately we left on a trip to the cottage and Mackinaw bridge. We only got back the day before school started. It was my first road trip.

In that year they managed to take us on a lot of excursions, the Ford packed with a singing and happy family.

I kept up a diary for a few months and reread it after 46 years. I did not give any negative comments on my family (and that for a teenager far from home), that really shows how good it was to be a part of the 'La Ponses'.

Later I knew that I displeased mom if I told her about things I liked better in Europe. But at the end of the year I was even scared to return to Belgium. They had made it so easy for me to adapt.

I have learned a lot from the 'La Ponses'. They are so much better at hugging! Thank you that I could be part of your wonderful family, I treasure every memory. Go on with the style, the guts, the talents and all the love you inherited from mom and dad.

I wish you strength in these difficult days.

Love Nora

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**Nora Venken** - July 19, 2021 at 03:43 PM

RA

“ I always enjoyed having a conversation with Julia. She would refer to my girls as little princesses since they had royal names.

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**Rebecca Amey** - July 19, 2021 at 12:14 PM

LF

“ Leon Golson and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



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**Leon Golson and Family** - July 19, 2021 at 10:58 AM

PW

“ Kathy, my deepest condolences to you and your family. It's so difficult to lose a parent, especially your mom. Mom's are the "hub" of the family. I know that she will be sorely missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Pamela Williams - July 19, 2021 at 08:08 AM

PF

“ My mom was all about family and helping others in need. Besides raising 6 of us we also had 2 exchange students that stayed with us for a year. Since she was so involved in volunteering and grief counseling she acquired other children. Even though my mom loved talking she was also a good listener. If she could heal your pain she would. She taught me how to be a good loving mother as well as care for others. I was able to go with her to church on a regular basis and she never missed my son's cross country, track or band concerts. She never missed a beat! That was my mom always involved in her family. I love you so much mom. I'm so happy that you are reunited with dad! I always knew you two were a match made in heaven and now you will be together for all eternity!

Pam Foote - July 18, 2021 at 09:37 PM

BK

“ My prayers, love & hugs for the LaPonse family! May the Lord give you strength & peace. I have been blessed to have your mom as my 2nd mom while growing up and spending so much time at your house and with your family. I certainly wish I could be there this weekend, but know that I will be there in spirit and you are all in my thoughts. Our faith has us grieving with the hope that we will be together again. 🙏📖❤️

Barb Konrad - July 18, 2021 at 08:09 PM

SJ

“ Grams you were a gem that I was fortunate to spend time with. You will be greatly missed. My condolences to the entire family

sarah Jean - July 18, 2021 at 04:39 PM

PH

“ My sincere condolences to all the LaPonce kids. My memories of your mom are all good ones. I felt like she always treated me as one of her own. Blue skies, Mom LaPonse.

Pat Hawkey - July 18, 2021 at 01:56 PM

DM

“ Wonderful neighbor on San Marco💕 we stayed close across Michigan to Minnesota and was always a delight to talk with. Will miss you! Prayers to your family! Dee Moore

Dee Moore - July 18, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse.



July 18, 2021 at 10:24 AM

KL

“ The connection that Grandma GG had with my kids is one that I will always cherish. They way they could just look at each other and smile told you that their hearts and souls were connected. Sophie loved writing to and getting letters from Grandma GG and I think Sophie got her love for writing to people from her. Sophie and Maks love to chat and their gift to gab must be passed down from her! But the thing is, no words ever had to be spoken between her and the kids. Her presence was enough to fill their hearts with her love! For that, I'm grateful.



Kate LaPonse - July 18, 2021 at 10:15 AM

FS

God bless her, i 'm so sorry

Fatima Sheidaei - July 18, 2021 at 11:52 AM

SL

“ There is not enough space on this page to even scratch the surface on how I felt about my Mom. She was selfless and caring. I was just recollecting with my siblings about how Mom would put on Elvis or Tom Jones while taking care of the house while everyone was at school and I had yet to start. She would read to Pam and I before school during breakfast. She was there when I hurt and I needed her. My love of travel comes from Mom and Dad. My sanctuary of north I owe to Mom and Dad for without them we would never have had our cottage and all the fun that was shared not just with our family but with anyone that was invited. We learned how to treat others with compassion and understanding. We were told to always turn the other cheek and be the bigger person. Things like this were just part of our lives. Mom made it seem flawless and easy. Even when we had the old style washer with the rollers that you had to feed the clothes into and then hang up to dry. Just daily things that she did that just go un-noticed until you reach that age and ask? How did she do that? We never wanted or needed anything. Mom was Mom always there. That wasn't the case just for family but anyone who entered our home. Physically she will be missed but she lives in my heart and that will never change. She is now resting with her best friend my Dad so I can feel at ease. Love you Mom!!!



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Sean J LaPonse - July 17, 2021 at 06:16 PM

SL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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sean J LaPonse - July 17, 2021 at 03:44 PM

AB

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the whole LaPonse family. I was so sad to learn of your mom's passing. Many years ago she brought me into the family if only for a brief while. She had a way of making you feel very special and was truly interested in what you thought and had to say. Her family was truly blessed to have both her and Mr. LaPonse to guide them through the mysteries of life. I believe we are all better for having known and spent time with her over the years. I know the family will be strong and carry on the legacy your mom has created. Please stay safe and take care.  
Love,  
Annet Braxton-Jones

Annet Braxton-Jones - July 17, 2021 at 02:21 PM

LG

“ I don't know what to say. While I never met your mom, you met and loved mine. That is all I need to know. Wishing you peace. I am sorry for your loss ❤️

lisa gaulzetti - July 16, 2021 at 09:24 PM

KG

“ My mom was one in a billion. She was a mom, not only to my siblings, but many more of our friends and neighbors. Growing up there was always room at our table for anyone who happened by. All were welcome.  
If you were loved by my mom, it was a deep and protective love. She would fight to the death for any of us. We have seen her in action many times over the years. I don't know what I will do without my mom here to reminisce and laugh with. Mom and I did many road trips together over the past 10 years or so. She loved to travel and meet new people. Always looking for a new adventure (or some other Knick knack to buy).  
Like my dad before her, she leaves a whole that nothing else can fill but she also leaves a legacy of love, kindness, volunteerism, and optimism.  
I learned so much from her over the years. She taught me how to be a mother, a good citizen, and a big talker, among other things. I will endeavor to continue her good works in her name. She will live on in all those who knew her, those whose paths she crossed, and especially those of us lucky enough to have been the recipients of her undying love. I miss you Mummsy. Love you forever.



Kathleen Gerus - July 16, 2021 at 08:39 PM

PF

*My mom was all about family and helping others in need. Besides raising 6 of us we also had 2 exchange students that stayed with us for a year. Since she was so involved in volunteering and grief counseling she acquired other children. Even though my mom loved talking she was also a good listener. If she could heal your pain she would. She taught me how to be a good loving mother as well as care for others. I was able to go with her to church on a regular basis and she never missed my son's cross country, track or band concerts. She never missed a beat! That was my mom always involved in her family. I love you so much mom. I'm so happy that you are reunited with dad! I always knew you two were a match made in heaven and now you will be together for all eternity!*

**Pam Foote** - July 16, 2021 at 10:52 PM

AA

*This is a wonderful testimony to your dear mother.*

**Alice Avery** - July 17, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AA

*Teary and I are so blessed to have known, Julia, not only as my son's mother-in-law, but meeting all of her wonderful family. It was always so apparent how much they adored her, and that comes from the love and blessings she bestowed on them. She was always a trusting, faithful friend to me and my family. I love and will miss her.*

**Alice Avery** - July 17, 2021 at 11:50 AM

LG

*I am so blessed to have known your mom. Her kind words and support is part of the reason I am still here today. I will miss her.*

**Leon Golson** - July 19, 2021 at 10:55 AM

GC

“ *Gerry Champagne lit a candle in memory of Julia Elizabeth LaPonse*



**Gerry Champagne** - July 16, 2021 at 07:06 PM