



Mrs. Shirley J. (Smith) Knopka

January 12, 1938 - March 12, 2014

Mrs. Shirley J. (Smith) Knopka, age 76, passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at The Pines at Utica.

Born in Gravesville, NY on January 12, 1938, Shirley was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Fallon) Smith. She was raised and educated in Gravesville. On March 17, 1955 she married Bernard A. Knopka, Sr. with whom she shared her love, respect, and common interests for 36 years until his passing on December 30, 1991.

For over 25 years, Shirley was employed by the Mele Manufacturing Company until her retirement. A spunky and spirited woman, Shirley was a gem of her generation, speaking her mind and sharing her thoughts freely. She was resourceful and dynamic in all her endeavors. She enjoyed socializing with friends and loved ones, crocheting, watching figure-skating on television, and basking in the sun.

Shirley is survived by her sons and daughter-in-law, Bernard Jr. and Anna Knopka of Frankfort, and Christopher Knopka of Utica. Always close to her heart were the memories of her sons, Timothy J. Knopka, and David A. Knopka, who preceded her in death. She also leaves her daughter-in-law, Diana Knopka; her grandchildren, Pamela, Bernie III and Maria Knopka, Denise, David II (Cynthia Irla) and Dana Knopka, Stephen and Faith Flynn; and her many great-grandchildren. She will also be missed by her sisters and brothers, Jean Kerwin of New Hartford, John and Mary Smith of McHenry, IL, Carol and Ron Bonanza of Marcy, and her Godmother and sister, Bonnie

Case of Utica; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law. She was predeceased by her sister, Joan Longo; and her brothers, Roy Smith, and Clarence (Jimmy) Smith. The family is grateful to the nurses and staff of The Pines at Utica for the wonderful and empathetic care offered to Shirley during her stay.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Shirley's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday at 12:00 noon at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish with Rev. James Cesta officiating. Interment will take place in Holy Trinity Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Cemetery Details

Holy Trinity Cemetery

Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

LR

“ I met Shirley at the Pines when my mom was there...she was such a sweet lady and so kind to my mom who also passed recently...the Rivecca family sends their deepest sympathy to you and your family....

lori rivecca - March 19, 2014 at 05:15 PM

DB

“ Chris & all Family Members, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of my old neighbor, Shirley. She was a wonderful person and I am glad to have known Shirley -- my "neighbor - across - the - street" for the years we knew one another on Taylor Ave. Rest in Heavenly Peace, Honey !!! Our family will NEVER forget you !!! Love, Debbie (Stubbs) Brown

Deborah A. Brown - March 15, 2014 at 06:42 PM