



## Kathleen Julia Opolka

July 18, 1933 - April 12, 2019

NORWAY-Kathleen (“Kath”) Julia Opolka, age 85, passed away surrounded by her loving family on April 12, 2019 in the Memory Care Unit at Evergreen Assisted Living in Kingsford.

She was born on July 18, 1933 in Kingsford, the daughter of the late Joseph and Genevieve (Boncher) Bouffiou, and was the youngest of eleven children.

She married Henry Opolka on October 6, 1956 at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church. They made their home in Norway “on the Hill” where they raised their six children. Henry preceded her in death on November 28, 2018. They were both members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norway.

Kathleen graduated from Kingsford High School and then worked at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital as an x-ray technician. In addition to being a homemaker, Kathleen worked at the Ben Franklin and Coast-to-Coast stores in Norway. Kathleen’s passion was her family and spending time with them. Some of those favorite times included Christmas shopping with her daughters, camp cookouts at the Waucedah Hilton, going to her grandchildren’s sporting events, hosting 4th of July fireworks, family reunions at City Park, road trips with her sisters to Seattle, and watching sports on television with Henry, especially the Green Bay Packers. Kathleen enjoyed sewing and making crafts and was known for her excellent potato salad. She loved the color red,

sunsets, the taste of fresh tomatoes with salt and the sounds of planes overhead as they brought back fond memories of her childhood.

Throughout her life and during her time at Evergreen, Kathleen touched many lives with her concern and care for those around her, always maintaining her sense of humor and bringing a smile to those she met. She was a nurturing presence to others and always had a warm welcome for all who came through the door. The family wishes to thank the compassionate Evergreen staff and Hospice for the care and devotion shown to both of their parents.

Kathleen is survived by her six children Mary Jean (Bernie) Larson, John (Sherri) Opolka, Kathy (Neal) Johnson, Janice (Jim) Heipel, Douglas (Joan) Opolka, Karen (Tyler) Stoner, grandchildren Al Larson, Jim (Christina) Larson, Katie (Rick) Wright, Kimberly (Derek) Seilbach, Eric Opolka, Zachery Johnson, Zachary Heipel, Joseph and Angela Opolka and Jacob and Jorden Stoner, great grandchildren, Henry, Emma, Olivia, Kylie, Isaiah, Kayla, Ava, Axel, Jace, Alivia and Logan. She is also survived by her sister Elaine Beyer, sister-in-law Irene Opolka and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Elwood "Buff" Bouffiou, Joseph Bouffiou, Donald Bouffiou and Eugene Bouffiou and her sisters Evelyn Hosking, Beverly Hosking, Shirley Pancheri, Dorothy Calo, and Donna Olson.

Visitation will be Wednesday, April 17th from 9:30 to 11:30a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Norway.

A memorial mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Fr. Timothy Ekaitis celebrating.

Interment for both Henry and Kathleen will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.



# Cemetery Details

## Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 17. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

## Memorial Mass

APR 17. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church  
401 Main Street  
Norway, MI 49870

# Tribute Wall

HM

“ *Holly McCarthy-Biolo lit a candle in memory of Kathleen Julia Opolka*



Holly McCarthy-Biolo - April 19, 2019 at 09:46 AM

HM

*So sorry for the loss of your mother, bless you all, take care. Holly and Tony*

Holly McCarthy-Biolo - April 19, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.*



April 16, 2019 at 04:05 PM

EV

“ *We were saddened to hear of the passing of Auntie Kath. She was totally devoted to her family and set an example for us all to emulate. Her beautiful smile and friendly disposition could light up a room. Rest In Peace, Auntie Kath. You will be missed. Elizabeth (Calo), Dick and Nikki Voelzke*

Elizabeth Voelzke - April 16, 2019 at 10:10 AM

SL

“ I will always remember when we went into the hardware store in March wearing shorts. Our Mom's laughed and your Mom said "Girls where are your pants?" It was 50 out. So many memories and she is smiling and laughing in every one. My heart is with you.  
Shannon

Shannon Stanek Lindgren - April 16, 2019 at 09:30 AM

DC

“ Jeff and Debbie Couper wish to extend their love and concern to the family of "Kath" Opolka. The love that she gave her children is obvious, as they are all compassionate, loving, and caring individuals.

Debbie and Jeff Couper - April 15, 2019 at 03:17 PM

LF

“ Love, Dorothy Hefner & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.



Love, Dorothy Hefner & Family - April 15, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.



April 15, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.*



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April 15, 2019 at 10:44 AM



“ *In the Love that surrounds you,  
May you find Strength...  
In the Memories you Cherish,  
May you find Peace.*



*God's Love and Blessings to the Family of Kathy  
From her Parish Family of St Mary's*

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**St Mary's Parish Family** - April 15, 2019 at 10:42 AM



“ *MY BEST TO THE FAMILY AND PRAYERS FOR MY AUNT KATH.  
I HAVE MANY HAPPY MEMORIES WITH HER WHEN WE WERE  
GROWING UP*

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**Ron Hosking Sr.** - April 15, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ *Your ATC Metering and Control Family  
purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the  
family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.*



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**Your ATC Metering and Control Family** - April 15, 2019 at  
09:35 AM

TS

“ Thinking of you and your family during this sad time. Our deepest condolences.

*Todd, Yvonne, Jonathan and Jenna*

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**Todd Stoner** - April 15, 2019 at 08:12 AM

EG

“ Auntie Kath and Uncle “Yashek” always made us feel so welcome when we visited with them but the special memories are of watching the fireworks at their home. It was a time to see so many aunts, uncles and cousins. Those were special times! One memory I have of Auntie Kath was when I was a young girl and she took me to the Florence Parade on Labor Day.

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**Elizabeth Glass** - April 15, 2019 at 07:44 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.



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April 15, 2019 at 07:03 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.



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April 13, 2019 at 04:41 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Julia Opolka.* ”



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April 13, 2019 at 02:40 PM