



## Antoinette Margaret Knecht

March 19, 1942 - April 26, 2020

Antoinette “Toni” M. Knecht, 78 years old who resided in Sylvania, Ohio passed away on April 26, 2020 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Toni was born March 19, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio. She was born to Michael and Stella Suchy and grew up with her three sisters in Cleveland. Toni attended The University of Dayton where she obtained her undergraduate degree. She then married Richard J. Knecht on August 26, 1967. She worked at the University Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio and as the Director of Head Start in Mankato, Minnesota, as well as at Children Services in Columbus and Toledo. She decided to further her education and obtained her Master’s degree from the University of Michigan in the area of Social Work. For 20 years of her career she was the Chairperson of the Social Work Department at Lourdes University. Toni was a licensed Social worker and counselor and also worked for Northwest Ohio Special Education and Resource Center. Toni was awarded “Outstanding Social Work Educator” in 1991 from the National Association of Social Workers.

Toni was an avid Jazzerciser, award winning gardener as well as Master Gardner. She was a lifelong learner with a deep rooted interest in helping those individuals who were less fortunate. Toni enjoyed traveling abroad and was a theatre enthusiast. She was the best apple pie maker and world’s greatest wife, mother, and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband, Richard J.Knecht, daughter, Heather A. (James P). Lout, and grandchildren, Lucas and Hannah. Toni’s three sisters

are Margaret (Danny) Tobin, Janice Helfen, and Gloria Suchy. Her extended family Coletta A. Knecht and Carol A. Knecht (sisters in law) also survive. A private service will be held at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon, Ohio April 29, with a memorial service planned for later this year. Donations can be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio at 800 South Detroit, Toledo Ohio 43609. Coyle Funeral Home is caring for the family; please leave a condolence message at [www.CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://www.CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery Details

**All Souls Catholic Cemetery, Chardon OH**

# Tribute Wall

OB

“ Toni guided me along the path of making my life-long dream of being a social worker a reality. When I was fourteen, I decided I wanted to be a social worker because it was a noble calling. After doing other things, in my forties, I found my way to Lourdes and Toni. She made sure I had what I needed to achieve my goal. She was outstanding.

*Olevia Brown-Klahn, MSW*

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**Olevia Brown-Klahn** - May 03, 2020 at 04:39 PM

SO

“ I have such positive memories of Toni from my time at what was then Lourdes College. Toni was a woman full of passion. For her, social work wasn't a job, it was a calling. Her desire was always to see her students succeed and to improve the social work program. The world is a better place for her having been in it. My sincere condolences to you, Richard, Heather and family. Toni is certainly enjoying the reward of a life well lived now.

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**Sister Nancy Surma, OSF** - May 01, 2020 at 08:08 PM

KD

*What a beautiful spirit! With a contagious laugh. She left the world a better place.*

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**Kettlie Daniels** - May 02, 2020 at 08:49 AM

AC

“ Dear Rich, Heather and Family: The Carroll family expresses their deepest condolences to you, Heather and family. My earthly heart is so saddened by the loss of my friend Toni. I know for sure that she is now resting in the arms of the Lord. While studying at Lourdes University I was under her tutelage, and she taught everything I needed to know in the field of Social Work Toni was my mentor and I owe my career in Social Work to her. Her positive attitude and her knowledge of Social Work was an asset in her own career, and my goodness what a resource person she was. I will miss her at conferences where she would ask the best questions during the presentation. Her friendship will be a long-lasting memory in my heart. “requiescat in Pace” Toni. Rich, Heather and family God bless all of you. Love, your friend. Annie.

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**Anne Carroll** - May 01, 2020 at 03:07 PM

PK

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Toni liked to talk about things of substance, and I fondly recall many discussions with her about things that matter the most to us and our community. She was a caring soul. She often brought me beautiful cards or yummy cookies she had made. Toni was a good friend, a great community contributor, and a beloved family member. Her spirit lives on in many acts of kindness and her compassion for the less fortunate. I will miss her.

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**Paulette D Kilmer** - May 01, 2020 at 11:29 AM

MC

“ My deepest condolences to the Knecht family. Toni will be missed

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**Mary Jean Cox** - April 30, 2020 at 09:31 AM

SS

“ *Sr. Rosine Sobczak sent a virtual gift in memory of Antoinette Margaret Knecht*



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**Sr. Rosine Sobczak** - April 29, 2020 at 11:00 PM

SS

*Dear Richard and daughters,*

*Her obituary jumped right off the paper today. as I opened the Blade. Toni was a wonderful addition to our faculty at Lourdes University. She worked very hard with the students in social work and was dedicated to that goal. I also admired her for her interest in Native American children. I am so sorry that you have suffered this loss. Your wife and mother was a wonderful example of kindness, justice and education. My prayers are with you all.*

*Sr. Rosine Sobczak OSF  
Associate Professor Emerita*

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**Sr. Rosine Sobczak** - April 29, 2020 at 11:09 PM

SP

“ *My deepest sympathy to you Richard, Heather and Family. Toni was a great lady. Toni and you are in my prayers.*  
*Sister Marguerite Polcyn*

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**Sr.Marguerite Polcyn** - April 29, 2020 at 04:59 PM

AT

“ *To Richard and the Knecht family, thoughts and prayers are coming your way from our family to yours for the loss of a wonderful colleague Toni. Condolences! God Bless her on her way to eternal life! Andrew Timothy, Carol and family*

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**Andrew Timothy** - April 29, 2020 at 10:49 AM

LE

“ *Dr. Knecht and family,  
May loving memories of Toni fill your thoughts  
during your time of sorrow.*



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**Linda Edelman-Pezzino** - April 29, 2020 at 10:32 AM

JG

“ *Rich and Heather,*

*We're so sorry to read this sad news. Know that all our memories of  
Toni are the best - her laugh, her smile, her overall niceness.  
With our most sincere sympathy,  
Lorrie and Joe Giannetti*

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**Joe Giannetti** - April 29, 2020 at 07:46 AM

AB

“ *Toni had a great impact on my life as the  
Director of Social Work Dept at Lourdes. Her  
support and guidance through my college  
career continue still in my professional life. My  
thoughts and prayers to her family. Amy  
Boggs, Class of 1994, Lourdes College.*



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**Amy Boggs** - April 28, 2020 at 08:11 PM

SK

“ Dear Dr. Knecht and Family,  
My deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family at this most difficult time. The first time I met Toni I felt I had always known her. It takes a very special person to make you feel that way. I read her beautiful obituary with awe. What dedication and a career to help others. She is surely reaping her rewards in heaven and being reunited with her dear family and friends. Be blessed with your beautiful memories of Toni forever and always in your heart. Sue Kosolka

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**Sue Kosolka** - April 28, 2020 at 04:20 PM