



Madlynn Pizza

November 14, 1925 - November 13, 2011

Mrs. Madlynn Pizza of Sylvania passed away Sunday November 13, 2011 at Toledo Hospital.

She married her sweetheart, Tony Pizza, during the Second World War and lived with his family while he was overseas. She learned how to make marinara, cannoli and pasta to continue the Italian traditions for her husband.

She was a seamstress who took great care and pride in sewing her children and grandchildren's clothes. Totally dedicated to her family, she raised her 4 children and became a surrogate mother to her 6 grandchildren. She provided a home, bedrooms, hugs and lectures to all!

Along with her husband she was a member of the Toledo Symphony, the Toledo opera, the Museum of Art, the Ability Center, Garden Club the Toledo Zoological Society and active in fostering in any way the Tony Pizza Scholarship Fund at the University of Toledo Law School. Her husband, Tony died in 2007 of cancer and she became a contributor to the American Cancer Society.

She is survived by her sons, Michael (Judy) Pizza, Toby Pizza, grandchildren, Kelly (Rich) Kerner, Dara Degnan, Angela (James) Mowrer, Tony Pizza, Andrew (Lindsay) Schneider and Natalie (Brian) Parris. The 6 great

grandchildren are Abigail, Lance, Austin, Alexandra, Camille and Landin. Also surviving is her son-in-law Martin Degnan. She was preceded in death by her daughters, Anita and Camile, her brothers Bill and Tim Gerberich.

Friends may call at the Coyle Funeral Home 1770 S. Reynolds Road Friday from 2 through 8 p.m. where services will be at 7 p.m. A family interment will take place Saturday at Resurrection cemetery. Memorials may take the form of a contribution to the American Cancer Society or the charity of the donor's choice.

A FEATURED BLADE OBITUARY:

(News article) A homemaker, watercolorist, and seamstress, who was a support to her husband, Anthony, during his 45 years in the Lucas County prosecutor's office, including 20 years as elected prosecutor, Madlynn Pizza died in Toledo Hospital on Sunday, the day before her 86th birthday.

She had congestive heart failure, her son, Michael, said.

Her husband did not seek re-election as county prosecutor in 1996. In the decade between his retirement and death, the couple regularly attended functions in support of the Toledo Symphony and the Toledo Opera. She took in the annual style show of the Auxiliary to the Ability Center.

In those years, she had time for charity, and the couple had time at last to relax. Formerly of South Toledo, the couple moved in the early 1990s to a home on a lake in Springfield Township, akin to having a cottage close to all things familiar, their son said.

"He never took vacations. When they retired, they bought a condominium in Florida and spent four or five months [a year there]," their son said.

She was born in Galion, Ohio, to Mary and Carl Gerberich and grew up in Mansfield with her late parents and her late brothers, Bill and Tim.

Mr. Pizza was in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was on a bus passing through town when he saw her -- and introduced himself. "If he turned to his left, or his buddy was telling a joke, or he was distracted, he would

never have seen her," their son, Toby, said. They married within a year, in 1944.

While he was away at war, as a navigator in the Pacific Theater, she moved in with his Italian immigrant parents in Toledo -- and learned Italian cooking. Her husband attended Kenyon College and was a graduate of University of Toledo law school. He became a Lucas County assistant prosecutor in 1951 and prosecutor in 1976. "She was happy that he was happy," son Michael said.

She liked to cook, and she kept the household running. She became involved with activities at her sons' and daughters' high schools. She went with her husband when he was invited to dinners as part of the job, but she largely left the campaigning to him.

"My father was the handshaker, the big smile," son Michael said.

"She was very sincere, but far more reserved," he said.

As a young woman, she was offered a scholarship to art school in Chicago -- which she said she would have taken "had my father not come along," son Michael said.

She later took classes at the Toledo Museum of Art. Her specialty was Impressionist-style landscapes in watercolor, and she gave finished works to family members and friends.

Art became an outlet after the Pizzas' daughters died of cancer -- Anita Degnan in 1990 and Camile Celestino in 1996. "My dad was very emotional. She was very stoic," son Michael said. "She started painting more than ever." For years, she made her own clothes and made clothing for her daughters, grandchildren, and friends. "She was a terrific seamstress," son Michael said. She was a supporter of the Tony Pizza scholarship fund at the University of Toledo.

Her husband died June 19, 2007.

Tribute Wall



“ I so loved Madlynn all these years since I was a freshman in high school. In my heart she was my "other mother" in spirit. I am happy she has returned "home" into the arms of the Father, Tony, Anita and Camile. She was an amazing woman.##imported-begin##Nancy Puccetti npuccetti@bex.net##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Please accept our sincere sympathy in the death of Madeline. Vince and I travelled with Tony and Madeline many times with the Epicurean Club. Such lovely people. Madeline was truly a "Grand Lady" May God Bless all of her family members in this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Vince and Monica Polcyn##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Nonnie you will be truly missed by your family. You were such an amazing woman. Your legacy will carry on in each of us! Rest in peace##imported-begin##Natalie Parris bn78parris@aol.com##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike,
I am saddened by the passing of your mother. I don't believe I ever met her but what a beautiful lady and I'm sure a wonderful mother!

She and you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

I look forward to seeing you in but a few months for our 50th celebration. I hope this finds you well.

With sincere condolences and best wishes.

*Chuck Preas###imported-begin##Chuck Preas
cpreas@opex.com###imported-end##*

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Family, I'm sure you don't remember me, but I was one of the chaplains with you at Mercy Hospital when you had a family member there. I just read of the passing of your mother and wanted you to know that I will never forget her. Mrs. Pizza was so gracious and I was awed by her beauty, both inside and out. She radiated warmth and love. Please be assured of my thoughts and prayers for you now and in the days to come. Peace.###imported-begin##Rev. Sherry Schermbeck###imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Natalie, I will never forget what a wonderful Nonnie you had and all the great times we had together in highschool and going to Florida together. You are in my thoughts and prayers###imported-begin##Amanda McNamee###imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael, Toby, Tony Boy, Kelly, Andrew and Natalie~ not to leave out other family members
My deepest Sympathy pours out to all of you in this time of loss. I designed Nonnie Pizza's kitchen and baths throughout her newly built home years ago. She quickly became one of my fond(est) friends. Our birthdays were 4 days apart. I loved her soooo much. She was a wonderful person, a very classy lady, full of life and great fun; some days we got very little done in the house, rather she would take me lunch at a favorite restaurant or she would 'Make' me choose. I wished I would have kept in better touch thru the years, I know we will meet again! My heart is very heavy, God Bless all of you, Sabrina and Kenzlie###imported-begin##Sabrina Poindexter sh eilap118@gmail.com###imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Toby, I was sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. I'll talk to you soon.

Don O###imported-begin##Don Obertacz###imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere sympathy goes out to Mike and the rest of the Pizza family. May she rest in peace.

John Kelleher###imported-begin##John Kelleher###imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Through His tender love and divine understanding, may God grant you the comfort He alone can give. Much prayer for you now and for the days ahead.

The Missionary Outreach Ministry

Sis. Anna E. Rayford, Ministry Leader

Bishop Elect Nolan G. White, Sr., Pastor##imported-begin##The Christian Community Church arayford@bex.net##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mike and Family,

My Deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Beautiful woman, inside and out...

Love, Cherry##imported-begin##Cherry Peirce##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere love and sympathy go out to Tony, Toby and the families of Anita and Camille. Our families lived next to each other in Birckhead Place and remembering Madlynn as such an elegant woman I named my first daughter Madeline. I had the privledge of having tea with her and Cam in 1995 while visiting from New Mexico. I know she Loved the Lord with all her heart and has been reunited with the husband & daughters she loved so dearly.

My parents, Steve and Gloria Cowgill send their love as well, with the fondest of memories.##imported-begin##Karlie Cowgill Row karl ierow@comcast.net##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss. Madlynn and Tony were such an important part of our lives especially throughout Tony's tenure at the Prosecutor's Office. May God bless her soul.##imported-begin##Steve and Chris Papadimos##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Toby, I am sorry to hear about your Mom. I meet her and your dad many times. They were great people. You have their same qualities and I am proud to be your friend.
Please except my condolences. We know she is in a much better place now.
Ed and Lynda Babiak##imported-begin##Ed Babiak edbabiak@hi-techbusinessforms.com##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike,
You have my sincere and deepest symphy in the loss of your mother. I know you will miss her terribly, but know she will always be with you. She was a beautiful and special Lady. My prayers are with you and your family in this great loss. Take Care!##imported-begin##Rose Dye securities@disallerealestate.com##imported-end##

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike, Toby, Marty, Kelly, Dara, Angela, Tony, Andrew and Natalie

Our deepest sympathies in your time of loss. We all have wonderful memories of our Aunt and will keep those with us. May each of you keep those memories as well.

*Love, Laura and Russ##imported-begin##Laura and Russell Plum p
izzaplum@gmail.com##imported-end##*

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to the entire Pizza Family.

Mrs. Pizza was like a 2nd mother to me when I was growing up and hanging around with Camile. I loved her very much and have tons of wonderful memories! I know how much she will be missed by everyone.

*May she rest in peace.##imported-begin##Connie (Wisniewski)
Gleave ConnieGleave@cox.net##imported-end##*

November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM