



Gladys Teresa Lepley

May 2, 2013 - May 2, 2018

Gladys Teresa Lepley passed away peacefully on May 2nd, 2018. She was born in Allentown, PA in 1922 to Victoria and Joseph Kostin, who emigrated from Poland in 1913 to this country through Ellis Island. She grew up with four siblings; Stella, Joe, Jenny and Helen. Gladys was raised in Mary D, PA and she was preceded in death by her father, mother, and her four siblings.

She became a member of the WWII Army Nurse Corps after attending St. Joseph School of Nursing in Reading, PA and served as a surgical nurse in the Philippines at the end of World War II. In the Philippines she met James H Lepley whom she married in 1946. She and Jim were married 62 years before Jim passed away in 2008.

Together Gladys and Jim raised five children: Cyndi (Lane), Jim (Cathy), Joe, Victoria (Gary), Peter (Michael). She enjoyed her three grandchildren Kate, Kyle and Jeff, and two great grandchildren, Abby and Megan.

Jim and Gladys moved to Norman, OK after the war ended and where she worked at Norman Regional Hospital as a surgical nurse while Jim finished school. After Jim finished school, they lived briefly in Midland, TX before moving to Tulsa, OK in 1946 where they started their family. Her nursing career took her to St. John Medical Center where she worked in Pediatrics on weekends. But as the children came along, she had to tell Sister Cleopha that she needed to retire! Later she volunteered as a school nurse at Bishop Kelley and served as a volunteer for several hospices.

She loved her Polish heritage and her first language was Polish, her only language until she started school at age 5. Because she grew up speaking Polish, she helped as a translator for Capuchins priests and brothers from Poland who established St. Anne's Parish in Broken Arrow. These clergymen were refugees from WW II concentration camps that had been liberated by Oklahoma soldiers. A priest who spoke only Polish came to her door one day and held up a sign written in English asking for help in learning English.

Gladys was an enthusiastic golfer playing with many golfing buddies at Meadowbrook, Oaks and Cedar Ridge Country Clubs. She was a long-time member of the Madalene Parish where her children attended school. She served the parish as Home Room Mother for her various children's classes, and as the President of the Women's Club for several years, cooking and serving many spaghetti dinners and Men's Club Dinner. Jim and Gladys were members of the Tulsa Chapter of the Holy Sepulcher. She enjoyed gardening, arts and crafts, crocheting and cooking, and was known for her wonderful brisket recipe. Her green thumb and artistic talents continue to inspire her children.

The family would like to thank The Legends of Tulsa Hills and RoseRock Hospice for their help in caring for Gladys over the last several years and months. Visitation will be at the Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel in Tulsa, OK on Wednesday, May 9th from 1:30-3:30pm. A Rosary will be said in the Chapel at the Church of the Madalene on Wednesday, May 9th at 5:30 p.m. Her funeral mass will be offered on Thursday morning May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to Catholic Charities or Bishop Kelley High School.

Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel, 918-291-3500.

Comments



“ Cyndi, I had no idea your parents met in the Philippines. Your mother was quite adventurous. What a life she had with your father and after. That generation was made of stern stuff; with long fruitful lifespans. How fortunate you 5 were to have her with you for so long! She is one of the fondest memories I have of growing up. My sympathy and prayers are with your family.

Marianne (McKenna) Kennedy - June 02, 2018 at 07:36 PM



“ Always a giving person and close friend to my family. Our sympathies and prayers to all the Lepleys.

John Carrara - May 09, 2018 at 07:00 PM



“ Peter, and the Lepley family, I am truly sorry to hear of her passing. ... I may have time to bring a card, today, but if not, I say that I was unaware of your mother's status, other than that the house had been sold years ago. ... I hope everyone is comforting one another. Pete, send me an email, if you would, so that I may respond.

Marty Randall - May 09, 2018 at 01:22 PM



“ I want to say to Peter, that I am sorry for your loss. I had known that your mother was at Franciscan, I thought, in BA. ... I hope you are doing well, in coping with this. ... Good to be in touch. ...

Marty Randall - May 06, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ I am so grateful for all of the life teachings from Mrs. Lepley. I still have fond memories of her at our Girl Scout outings, Madalene church and school events, and treating me to lunch at the Oaks. But I am most grateful to her (and Mrs. Rivera) for teaching several of us how to sew. Her patience was tremendous although I always wondered what she was saying in Polish during those trying lessons. We are better because of her. I will keep the Lepley family in my thoughts and prayers.

Patty Guillaume Chapin - May 06, 2018 at 07:04 PM



“ My condolences, Jim. So sorry for your loss. You classmates will be thinking about you this week. Take care, Bob

Bob Williams - May 06, 2018 at 06:52 PM



“ Ms Lesley it was a honor to serve you... I will never forget you. You were my favorite. Always had a smile and would tell me to come in and sit down with you... You always reading the paper and wanting to go shopping. Forever in my heart. And my love to your family... God Bless you all...

Janet - May 04, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ To Joe and Jim, I am so sorry to read about your mother. She lived a very good life to be 95. Please accept my deepest condolences on your loss. I miss my mother too and I know you will miss your mother just as much.

Jim Enright - May 04, 2018 at 01:24 PM