



Theresa Downey

November 14, 2015

Theresa Savard Demmon Downey, 90 of St. Ignace passed away Saturday morning, November 14 at Christian Park Healthcare Center in Escanaba following a lingering illness.

Theresa served as treasurer for the City of St. Ignace for several years and was employed as payroll clerk for LaSalle High School, retiring in 1977. Mrs. Downey passed away Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Christian Park Healthcare Center in Escanaba.

She was born April 24, 1925, to William Charles and Agnes Marie (nee Raymond) Savard in St. Ignace. She married Leonard Demmon. He died in 1976. She later married Wilbur Downey, and he also preceded her in death.

Mrs. Downey was graduated from LaSalle High School. She was a member of St. Ignace United Methodist Church, and an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Mrs. Downey was the matriarch of the Demmon clan, family members said, and her house was where her family gathered for holidays and throughout the year. She lovingly prepared countless meals, as cooking was one of her greatest passions. She could prepare, cook, and bake anything.

She also loved doing crafts, and was quite talented. She busied herself with

quilting (one for each child, grandchild, and a few more), crocheting, knitting, sewing, oil painting, making soft dolls, and pine needle baskets, always to give away. Most of these were done in the winter months, when she wasn't traveling and enjoying warm winters on the beaches of the Gulf, collecting seashells.

In the spring, summer, and fall, Mrs. Downey's interests were her grandchildren, gardening, berry picking, canning, entertaining, and feeding the birds and squirrels. Someone was always stopping in, and she was happiest when she had company. Her best friend and brother, Bernard Savard, visited daily. When her parents and two sisters, Hazel and Evelyn, were alive, family members frequently visited and they loved to listen to the stories they told. Many card games were played at her table, always with coffee and homemade treats.

She loved to teach and share her knowledge, and she had strong moral values. All of Mrs. Downey's children love the outdoors, animals, gardening, and cooking, as well as many of her grandchildren. She taught family members how to cook, bake, make jellies, can, play pool, garden, sew, play numerous card games, balance a checkbook, drive a stick shift, and other life skills.

She will be remembered, her family said, as a kind, caring, proud, giving, and patient person. Her family meant the world to her.

Mrs. Downey is survived by four children and their families, Leonard and Kathryn Demmon of Minnesota, Ernest and Pam Demmon of Gladstone, Bill Demmon of Princeton, and Kathy and Don Arp of Cedar Cove, Tennessee; three stepchildren and their families, Alan and Alice Demmon of Lansing, Beverly Haines of Potterville, and Janet and Bill Lupowski of East Jordan; one brother and his family, Rodney and Kathleen Savard of Wells; 20

grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, two infants Viola and Mary Clara Savard, Evelyn Utter, and Hazel McCall, and three brothers, Charles Savard, Ray Savard, and Bernard "Archie" Savard.

Friends may call at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace Thursday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Graveside services will follow at St. Ignatius Loyola Cemetery, followed by a luncheon.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Tribute Wall



“ *Theresa Downey*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Theresa Downey*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Theresa Downey*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I will forever miss Grandma Theresa and our great conversations over pots of coffee. She was genuine, loving, and always there for her family. One of the best. I love you grandma, rest in peace.*

Rachel Sapala - November 19, 2015 at 08:20 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Teresa was one of the finest people I've ever met. She will be missed by all who knew her.*

Jack Bruce - November 18, 2015 at 11:13 PM

TE

“ Although she was not my grandmother, she was the grandmother of my best friend and I felt close to her for many years. she welcomed her home to her family and their friends letting me stay with her whenever I was in St. Ignace which was a lot throughout the late 80's and early 90's. So many thanks for letting me be a part of your family. You are loved and missed my so many.

Tilman Timothy Ellis - November 18, 2015 at 06:53 PM

JM

“ Don and I wish to express our heartfelt sympathy. Your mother was such a lovely lady. Your family will be in our prayers.

Jackie Kriesche McCormick - November 18, 2015 at 07:00 AM

DD

“ When we heard of your loss, we were deeply saddened. We hold dear the memories we have of your mom. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Dennis and Peggy DeRidder - November 17, 2015 at 07:07 AM

LP

“ Theresa was a beautiful woman that loved to garden, cook, make crafts. She made some of the most beautiful quilts anyone has ever seen. She loved her family with all of her heart. I will forever miss you and our time we spent together. To all of her children, I am so so sorry for such a great loss. Our mothers are together in Heaven now and for that we should be grateful.

Lisa Powers - November 16, 2015 at 04:33 PM

BT

“ Ron and I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Demmon family and all the relatives and friends. Theresa will be missed by many in the community. She was a kind, generous woman and I will always remember her for teaching me how to make gleasons. Love and prayers from the Trainor household.

Barbara Trainor-Hoyt - November 16, 2015 at 03:41 PM