



Bernice Scozzafave

January 15, 1947 - January 18, 2019

Bernice Frances "Aunt Bernie, Miss Scozz" Scozzafave, age 72, of Brimley, Michigan passed away early Friday morning, January 18, 2019, at the Hospice of the EUP - Hospice House.

Bernice was born on January 15, 1947, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to the late Frank and Naomi (Gallina) Scozzafave. She graduated from Loretto Catholic High School with the class of 1965. She continued her education at Western Michigan University earning her Bachelor's Degree in 1971. She was a high school teacher at Cedarville High School 1971-1976, Fowler High School 1976-1999, and Lansing Eastern High School 1999-2006. She was a member of the professional organization of the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority - Gamma Chapter.

Bernice was a member of the Christopher Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Bay Mills, where she worked on many pasty sales, cleaning the church, and befriending/mentoring newly appointed Indian & African priests. She enjoyed quilting, sewing, and cooking. Her greatest joy in life was "helping others". Bernice was always willing to step up, no matter what the circumstances. She did this usually without being asked, and would unselfishly participate in various and diverse projects. She was an advocate for poor, underprivileged and racially oppressed refugees. In 2006 an award was created expressly for Bernice by

the Capital Area Literacy Coalition, "The Refugee Literacy Advocate Award". Bernice was truly generous of her time, talent and treasure for the betterment of others.

Bernice is survived by her son: Kuol Nai of Lansing, MI; a grandson: Jayvyn Nai of Sault SainteMarie, MI; her brother: Phillip (Mary Pat) Scozzafave of Lansing, MI; her nieces and great nieces and nephews: Kari (John) Schroeder, Michael, Ryan & Katelyn of Dewitt, MI and Jami (Scott) deVarona, Megan & Justin of Grand Ledge, MI; and a nephew: Mark (Aimee) Scozzafave of Chicago, IL. She is also survived by many first cousins originally from the twin Saults: Bob (Darlene) Scozzafave, Frank (Darlene) Scozzafave, Tony Scozzafave, Joe (Barbara) Scozzafave, Rosemary (Jim) Sandefer, Marilyn (Dick) Auttersen, Phyllis Kinney, Tom (Cathy) Scozzafave, Susan Reid, Judy Nanchin, Evelyn Ansley, Sandra Pold, Carla (Alan) Henderson, Bonita (Gord) Gallina, Laura Gideon, Larry (Diane) Favero, Leo (Linda) Favero, Leona Favero, Sylvia (Don) Downton, and Bert (Joyce) Bertolo. She also leaves behind many special friends and extended family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, February 8, 2019, at the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church with Fr. Sebastian Kavumkal as the celebrant. Friends may gather at the church from 9:30 am until the time of the Mass. A second Memorial Mass will be held at the usual 12:30 pm Mass on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in Bay Mills with Brother John Haskell as the celebrant. A Mass in her intention will be offered during the St. Mary's School Student Mass at St. Mary's Church on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 8:15am Mass. Also a Mass in her memory will be offered at St. Gerard Church in Lansing on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 8:10am. Interment will be at Riverside Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, Bernice would like donations to be made to Hospice of EUP, St. Mary's Catholic School, or Lansing Catholic High School. Bernice also wanted to remind everyone to buy their St. Mary's Catholic School Jackpot Raffle ticket!

Anyone who knew Bernice, knew she loved Elvis and hoped he was the first one to meet her at the Pearly Gates! In true Elvis fashion, "Bernice has left the building!"

Tribute Wall

TC

“ We are so sorry to learn of your mom's passing, Kuol. She was such a nice person and this is a great loss to many. Praying you find comfort in many good memories, as we extend our sincere sympathy.

Tom & Nancy Chadwick - February 12, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Such a beautiful weekend & well deserved celebration of a life well lived. I have many, many happy memories of our adventures. What I admired about Bernice was her ability to bring people together and make them feel special. I met many wonderful people and renewed acquaintances. Thank you Bernice. We don't know why but you are gone too soon. RIP dear cousin. I will always love and miss you.
Cousin Sandra

Sandra Pold - February 10, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Bernice's warm and welcoming smile greeted us always at church. She was a worker, a giver and lived her faith. Her presence will be missed in our summer home area of Brimley as well as St. Kateri Church. There is no doubt in our minds that she is in the arms of Jesus with an Elvis song being sung personally to her. Our deepest sympathy to family.

Bernice and Francis Whalrn - February 10, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Your smiling face and cheerfulness will be sorely missed at St. Kateri church as well as your willingness to help wherever it was needed. Am also sure St. Mary's School will feel the absence of one of their major ticket sellers. It was such a pleasure to know you, Bernice.

Pat Brighton - February 09, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ So many memories of my cousin Bernice .. teaching me to downhill ski , fun times at Brimley Mi cabin .. with her infectious smile , twinkle in her eye always with so much joy and happiness .. you are a well respected, kind spirited, classy lady that will be sadly missed but never forgotten in the many that you touched in your life .witj much love and admiration .. Theresa

Theresa Bertolo - February 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I Celebrate with you her beautiful, fun, life. Love your "aunt" Bernice! Oh, how that big laugh, those long tight hugs, and the good-clean-fun you always shared will never be forgotten. Prayers for peace for all who will miss those earthly joys. 🙏 Jaami

Jaami McClellan Rutledge - February 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dearest Bernice, you loved everyone, forgot no one, knew how to have fun, family and friends-loved as one. You will be missed, your memory caressed, as an Aunt, cousin, friend- THE BEST! In the loving arms of Jesus-take REST. Love from Carol , Abby, Ginger, Jaami & Zak

Carol McClellan - February 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Shocked to learn about Bernice's death. in today's Sault Star-Feb. 7/19 Bernice was a wonderful lady,who spread joy wherever she went. Her tireless efforts on behalf of others,will ensure her a high spot in Heaven .. We summer campers will miss her and so will everyone at St. Kateri Parish. May she rest in peace. Moyra O'Pallie

Moyra O'pallie - February 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Bernice meant so much to me. My family were her neighbors on Augusta St. in the Soo. Growing up she was my role model as she was to others. My life was enriched by her. God Bless you Bernice and Thank You...

Debra Rose - February 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I love Bernice for "doing" what she believed. A lot of people pretend to care, Bernice left no doubt.

R.J. Raleigh - February 01, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Bernice walked what she talked. She inspires me to be a better person

R.J. Raleigh - February 01, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ I am a friend of Nancy Zeigler she told me many fun stories and adventures she had with her dear friend Bernie. Nancy will truly miss Bernie.

cathy west - February 01, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *Bernice has certainly brought love and joy to all that knew her. She will always be in my thoughts and prayers. It was always a pleasure to be in her company and her smile was infectious. May her soul rest in peace.*

Laura Gideon - January 28, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Bernie will be missed by many and especially her family. She was always smiling and treated you as she knew you forever. RIP friend. You will be MISSED....*

Linda J. Wolcott - January 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *So sorry to lose Bernice. Haven't seen her in many years, but at one point she was close to our daughter, Sarah. Sympathy to her entire family and sorry we cannot be there.*

James & Donna Paterson - January 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *So sorry to hear about Miss Scozzafave's passing. She was an inspiring teacher, a lovely lady, and the best class advisor.*

Anita Smale-Bilek - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about her passing, may she rest in peace, her loving personality will be missed*

Jackie - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ We are all thinking of everyone during this very difficult time. Bernice will be so missed by so many. Our love and our thoughts are with all her family and her friends.

Sylvia and Don Downton and Family - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Her obituary sure captured the spirit of Bernice! She was truly a loving lady and so generous to any cause she believed in! Sorry we will miss her funeral Mass at St. Mary's. We will be heading south for 6 weeks. May her beautiful soul Rest In Peace! .

Jackie Benson - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ I am sorry to hear of her passing. As a boy some 60 years ago I made it to the Sault in a big Chevy Impala driven by Elsie Gallina. I have distinct memories of meeting her then and her other who was operating a taxi service. She has been a great contact on Facebook. I am sure she will be missed.

Paul Gallina - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Bernice was truly a lovely lady with a heart that was bigger than she was. We loved her and enjoyed any time that we were with her. Loved always.

Bert & Joyce Bertolo - January 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ We love you, Bernice. Special condolences to Phil and Kuol and all the people who loved her dearly.

Carol Gideon and Family - January 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM