



Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc

January 13, 1925 - January 19, 2021

Gertrude Amelia "Little Mealie" LeBlanc, 96, of Bay Mills, Michigan, walked on January 19, 2021 at her home surrounded by family. She was born on January 13, 1925 in Bay Mills, Michigan to Henry and Gertrude Mills. She had two brothers and three sisters.

Amelia was raised in the Assinins Old St. Joseph Orphanage until she turned eighteen. A devout Catholic, Amelia married her husband of 38 years, Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc, on August 6, 1945. They shared thirteen children, 32 grandchildren, hundreds of great and great great grandchildren, and dozens of nieces and nephews from her siblings.

Amelia made her large and boisterous family her life's passion whether she was baking sweets and bread for her children, crocheting blankets for her grandchildren, singing lullabies to all of her babies, or calling her family to her house for Sunday breakfast after Church - she found joy and happiness being surrounded by her loved ones.

Amelia's favorite personal pastime was the beloved game of car bingo, which she and her husband first brought to Bay Mills in the late 1970's. It became a lifelong tradition, and for every week thereafter Amelia found a game of bingo to attend with her friends and family.

Outside of her devotion to her family, Amelia spent her life working for and serving her community. For numerous years, she served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Council Member on the Bay Mills Executive Council. Shortly thereafter, Amelia also quietly supported her Tribe and husband fighting for

treaty fishing rights in the landmark cases *People v. LeBlanc*, and *United States v. Michigan*.

Yet, many people will remember Amelia for her laughter and dance moves after years of running Big Abe's Bar up by the island in Brimley, Michigan. For her good food, as she whipped up lunches with her best friends Marie Cameron and Audrey Lyons at the Bay Mills Senior Program. Or for her sweet smile and caramel candies, as she spent the last of her career years welcoming guests to Bay Mills Resort & Casino.

No matter where she was or what job she worked, any time someone entered a room Amelia welcomed them with a bright smile, a warm hug, and a kiss on the cheek. The joy and love she shared with all will be dearly missed.

Amelia is survived by her children, Bernadette (Edward) Lothrop, Eileen Daigle, Albert "Sonny" (Joann) LeBlanc, Debra Murphy, Corrine Cameron, Anthony (Dawn) LeBlanc, Ruby (Sam) Hatfield, Jacques (Gloria) LeBlanc, and Evelyene (Joseph) McPherson.

Amelia is preceded in death by her husband, Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc; her siblings, Evelyn Brown, Elsie Green, Russell Mills, Raymond Mills, and Ruby Chingwa; her children, Danny LeBlanc, Pierre LeBlanc, Raymond Marcell LeBlanc, and Soloma LeBlanc; her sons-in-law, Harold Cameron Jr., Joseph Daigle, and Ronald Murphy; and her grandchildren, Nicholas Cameron and Marcell LeBlanc.

Visitation will be Friday, January 22, 2021 from 10:00am until 2:00pm at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Brimley. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, January 22, 2021 at 2:00pm at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church with Celebrant Father Dominic Yamoah. Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in the spring. Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services assisted the family with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mission Hill Cemetery

Bay Mills, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church
Bay Mills, MI

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 22. 2:00 PM.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church
Bay Mills, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ Will miss her smiling face, her laugh the deep belly one, but most of all the words "my babe" her love for the family was strong she has left so many memories...Easter baskets for ALL the grandkids and greats and colored eggs for the adults-i remember helping color all those eggs and counting them-no one was to be forgotten 🥰 also Christmas everyone getting a gift - her family was everything! She left a beautiful legacy of love and family. Sending love & prayers ❤️ she left us many fond memories to keep in our hearts now she will be watching from above ❤️

Carol Brown - January 22, 2021 at 07:37 AM

WK

“ RIP Aunt Ameila. OMG where do I start. So many stories from growing up. Car bingo as kids was wayyy cool. We could play as kids!!!

When visiting one time, I remember the fish smell when walking into the house and I had to ask the stupid question about what they were cooking. Fish heads was the answer. Yuck!! Never tried those. But Uncle Abe apparently loved them!! And I remember Aunt Ameila laughing at the face I made. And she tried like hell to “get me to try them”

-Love-

Baa mah Pii Aunt Ameila!!

Willis Kiogima - January 21, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc.



January 21, 2021 at 11:07 AM



“ You have shared Mealie with all of us for many years. We now share your memories and tears at her passing. Know that she is loved and mourned by all who knew her. Thank you for sharing this moment, as well.

Kathryn Tierney

Kathryn Tierney - January 21, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc.*



January 20, 2021 at 09:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gertrude Ameila "Little Mealie" LeBlanc.*



January 20, 2021 at 09:11 PM