



Philma Dora Leazier

March 29, 1926 - December 25, 2022

Philma Dora (Knoodle) Leazier, age 96, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died at Evergreen Living Center on December 25, 2022. She was born in St. Ignace on March 29, 1926, to Patrick L. Knoodle and Lucille Moscoe Ance.

Philma was born at the Moses Shedowin Home in St. Ignace, which was her cousin's (Charley Shedowin and sister's). She was a Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Elder. She was born during the March Northwind Storm & was given her Native name, "Kewadin," meaning Big North Wind as a result. She grew up in a tar paper shack, not far from the courthouse in St. Ignace. The house had no running water, electricity, or plumbing. As a young girl, she hauled pails of water from the neighbor's hand pump well. They had a wood stove for heat, and she would go out to collect wood as well. Electricity was hooked up with one light bulb over hanging the main room that a family friend of her mother, installed for the family when she was about 12. Indoor plumbing came much later in her life.

Philma attended school in Newberry, Michigan, as well as the Holy Child Childhood School for Native children in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Later, she went to Convent Catholic School in St. Ignace, until the 11th grade and then the NYA School in Ironwood, Michigan, to become a welder. During WWII, Philma worked as a welder on Navy Ships in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and then later worked in a munitions plant in Baraboo, Wisconsin, with nitro

Cellulose based propellants that were used in WWII.

She worked in many local restaurants, bars, and manufacturing plants in the St. Ignace area and Green Bay, Wisconsin, over the years. She worked as a ticket seller for Star Line and Arnold Line Ferry Boats. She also sold Avon and was the top seller and President's Club honoree for sales, she worked for over 40 years with the company. In the 1990's, she was a Hospice Volunteer Sitter and worked on the election board for years.

She had five children with her first husband, Raymond Woodford; Irene, Bonnie, Patrick, Michael and Dale. She remarried and had three more children with her second husband, Glenn Mattox Sr.; Lindy, Glenn Jr., and Paul. She did not have any more children with her third husband, Clyde Leazier, but he had two sons from his previous marriage, Duane and Eddy.

Philma was a member of the Women of the Moose Lodge since 1982 and was one of the "Church Ladies" as they were known in town who said the rosary before each mass that was scheduled. She was a member of the St. Anne's Altar Society and was certified for the Children's Catholicism Ministry Program. She was one of the prayer chain warriors for the Catholic Church.

Philma was a Breast Cancer Survivor from 2004. She always found time and energy for all of her children and grandchildren, especially seeing to it that they were baptized, participated in Sacrament of Penance, first Holy communion, and confirmation. She was a devout Catholic. She always had a smile and laughter to share. She was one of the prayer chain warriors at the Catholic Church. She lived life to the fullest and loved to party, travel, and put puzzles together with her grandchildren and great grandchildren; she'd watch and cheered the Green Bay Packers with a cold beer, and a shot of Brandy. She also made countless, beautiful Afghans that kept everyone in her family warm. Those who knew her well as a resident at Evergreen Living Center,

laughed each time and she would sing “Hamtramck Mama” by The York Brothers for everyone. Her go-to phrase to say was, “The first 100 years are the worst, after that it is clear sliding.”

Philma is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Bernard Knoodle, who passed at the age of 9; sons, Paul William Mattox, who passed at 6 months old, and Glenn Louis Mattox Jr., who died at the age 17 due to a hit-and-run accident; and sons-in-law, Allen R. Green, and Gerald N. Horn.

Philma is survived by her six children and their families; Daughters, Irene M. Horn, Bonnie L. Culfa, and Lindy (Kevin) McNamara; sons, Patrick G. (Peggy) Woodford, Michael L. (Rose) Woodford, and Dale R. Woodford; grandchildren, Jerry, Gary (Susan), Archie, Kevin (Stacy), and Tom (Tracy) Horn, Theresa, Michelle, Raymond Woodford, Nicole (Kevin) Turley, Samantha Green, Sara (Ted) Olson, and Glenda (Blake) Loebach, and Allen Green Jr., Joseph J. III (Brandy) Culfa, and David Culfa; and many beloved great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, Michigan, on March 29, 2023, at 11:00 AM with a tribal gathering and luncheon to follow at 12:15 PM, at the Sault Tribe Elderly Meals, 399 McCann Street, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781.

Final Resting Place will be held on May 10, 2024, at 1:00 PM, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery in St. Ignace, Michigan.

Galer Funeral Homes & Cremation in Pickford, Michigan, is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church
120 Church
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Tribal Ceremony

MAR 29. 12:15 PM (ET)

St. Ignace Tribal Community Center
399 McCann St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Burial

MAY 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery
Chambers Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Tribute Wall



“ *Philma Dora Leazier*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Philma Dora Leazier*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Philma,*

We've shared a lot of laughs and card games of your visits. You have a gift of joy that you shared easily with everyone. I still have that afghan Bonnie had you make what is that like over 30 years. Some people and some things just sit with you like that they are just a part of you wherever and forever. We'll be sure to have a beer if I get there. Rest in peace



Gary Almond - January 07, 2023 at 02:36 PM



Thanks Gary, beautiful. ❤️

Bonnie Culfa - January 07, 2023 at 11:03 PM

TC

“ *When Philma came to Evergreen living center to live, she was soon loved by us all. We loved it when she would sing, and clap along. She truly touch my heart, I will always remember her. Your at peace now, Philma..*

Tina Cupp - December 31, 2022 at 12:04 PM



Bonnie
Culfa

Thank you Tina, you all became her second family. ❤️

Bonnie Culfa - January 07, 2023 at 11:05 PM

NT

“ *I love you grandma! I'm so happy I was able to see you again. Watch out for me and my family. You have been and will be in my thoughts, all the time. I'll never forget everything you have taught me, and I hope I continue to make you proud. I will miss you dearly.*



Nicole Turley - December 30, 2022 at 05:46 PM

MH

“ How I love philma! One of the first people I meet when I moved here. I was out doing yard work and walked into my yard and commences to sell me Avon. Which I bought from her until she gave it up. Then we bartered haircuts for Avon .

I love hearing her stories of her life which wasn't easy. She never complained just the facts.

At her 90th birthday party , she danced up a storm, and was having a blast! Micheal said “we will probably be back in ten years”

She has earned her reward. Fly hi my friend.

MariAn



MariAn Huhn - December 28, 2022 at 08:11 PM



Bonnie
Culfa

Thank you MariAnn, she always spoke of you and your friendship and she loved you dearly. ❤️

Bonnie Culfa - December 28, 2022 at 09:44 PM