



## Ruth Marlene (Koprowski) Atkinson

August 23, 1931 - October 14, 2018

Ruth Marlene Atkinson passed peacefully on October 14, 2018 after almost eight months under Hospice Care. Her determination to live each day joyfully is her legacy to her family and those who knew her. Ruth was the daughter of Polish immigrants, Marion and Stephanie Koprowski, was born in 1931 and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ruth has a sister Evelyn and a brother Richard. Only four years old when her father died, Ruth's brother, Richard, became her protector, role model, and best friend. Ruth met the love of her life while waitressing in Grand Rapids, as she regularly served a handsome young man named William Atkinson from Sault Ste. Marie who was on the auditing crew for the A&P grocery store, whenever he came to town. Her mother knew that Bill was "the one" for her daughter, after their first date where he was introduced to a Polish wedding! After that, Bill could do no wrong! Ruth and Bill married on August 20, 1955 and had four children, Debbie, Steven, Arlene and David. After many years as a stay-at-home mom, Ruth went back to work and eventually became a head cook at Lake Superior State University. Ruth loved her job, cooking for the college students and running a large kitchen. She was the favored chef for many college presidents, including Dr. Shouldice, who always requested her. Even after she retired, to her absolute delight, she was asked to work often until age 77! Ruth lived on Superior Street behind St. Joseph's Catholic Church for over 50 years. Ruth was the proud mother and mother-in-law of Debbie & Rick Faust, Steven & Megan Atkinson, Arlene & Rod MacPherson, and David

& Heather Atkinson. She is the grandmother of Tricia Farner, Stephanie Luckie, Grant & Mandy MacPherson, Cecilia & Taylor & Bill Atkinson, and Ariana & Trey Atkinson. She has three great grandchildren; Landon, Noah and Morgan Farner. She attended as many events for her children and grandchildren as possible - her son's baseball games, her granddaughter's volleyball games, shows and plays and competitions - and was their greatest cheerleader. Ruth lived independently after Bill passed in 2002 with their beloved cockapoo, Skippy. She drove herself everywhere, from grocery shopping to water exercise class, and loved her social life - her swim club breakfasts and her many family activities. As head family cook, she spoiled her children with her delicious meals. When she moved into McKinley Manor in January, she brought the family with her! Many birthday parties were hosted this year there and her grandchildren were there to visit her almost every day. Nothing made Ruth happier than spending time with her family, her church, and her God. Today she is the happiest she has ever been. Visitation will be held 9:30am until 10:30am on Wednesday October 17, 2018 at Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00am Wednesday October 17, 2018 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Michael Chenier as Celebrant and Deacon Bill Piche assisting. Burial will be in Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Joseph's Catholic Church or Hospice of the EUP would be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Marlene (Koprowski) Atkinson*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ruth Marlene (Koprowski) Atkinson*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Ruth Marlene (Koprowski) Atkinson*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dear Debbie and Family, Debbie we are so sorry for you and your family on the passing of your mother! Yet very happy for her that she is with God and her family, very happy and peaceful! Rosemary and Jim Blashill*

**Jim and Rosemary Blashill** - October 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I send my love and condolences to all of you. I remember all the fun things when you all would come to the cottage every year. Your Mom was the best and now she's with your Dad and my Mom in heaven with Grandma. You all are in my prayers. Love Janet.*

**Janet Butkiewicz** - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PM

“Debbie, Steve, Arlene, and David. Ruth was a close friend for a lot of years when I worked at Lake State. I used to break for coffee with the cooks at CANUSA and I'll always look back on those days with a smile. I have nothing but good memories of your mother and she will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Patrick Manor** - October 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RM

“Debbie, Steve, Arlene, and David: My heartfelt condolences to all of you and your families. Your mom was a beautiful, generous, and kind lady. I feel fortunate that I got to know her, your dad, and all of you too. The “apples” did not fall far from the tree. I know how proud your parents were of all of you. I wish I could be there with you to celebrate Ruth's life with you. Know that I am thinking of all of you at this time. Love, Robbin

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**Robbin Manor** - October 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TG

“Condolences to the entire family! What a lovely obituary you have prepared for you mother, grandmother and great grand mother.

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**Theresa A Guillard** - October 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“I only found out of Ruth's passing tonight (Monday). My deepest condolences to all of the family. Ruth was a lovely lady. I always looked forward to our visits. My thoughts are with you all. Mary MacPherson

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**Mary MacPherson** - October 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM