



Virginia "Tootsie" Lee Golanka

June 27, 1939 - January 21, 2026

Virginia "Tootsie" Lee Golanka, age 86, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on January 21, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born on June 27, 1939, in St. Ignace, Michigan, to Leland and Alma (Lundwall) King.

Virginia grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School. She was known for her big heart and her deep care for others. Virginia volunteered at the local animal shelter and with hospice, giving her time and compassion generously.

Virginia enjoyed gardening and knitting and took great joy in tending her flower beds.

Virginia is survived by her husband, Donald; children, Gary (Nicole) Golanka, Holly Wessel, and Heidi Golanka all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Matt Sturgul, Jennifer (Keri Roedl) White, and Kaila (James) Heck; great-grandchildren, Cole, Hennessy, Pixelle; sister, Louise Rogers of Sault Ste. Marie; and sister-in-law, Sharon King of Sault Ste. Marie.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, Leland and Alma; brother, Robert King; and sister, Shirley King.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff on the second floor of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault for their wonderful and attentive care.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Tribute Wall

OL

“ OZZIE AND LISA lit a candle in memory of Virginia "Tootsie" Lee Golanka



OZZIE AND LISA - January 26 at 02:45 PM

LS

“ Prayers and Love being sent to you on the passing of Toosie she was a wonderful lady

Lori Isaacson Strickland - January 26 at 12:49 PM

TR

“ My deepest condolences to the family! My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Terri Rosebohm - January 25 at 05:23 AM

LS

“ Tootsie was one of a kind. She was so loving and kind and loved animals deeply. I promised her I would take good care of Mae Mae, and for her I will. We will miss her deeply everyday. She will be thought of and her memory cherished. So much love to Bundy, Gary, Nicki, Holly, and Heidi and all the families. Rest in peace sweet Tootsie we love you.

Lisa and Ozzie Smith - January 24 at 01:38 PM

JG

“ I DID NOT KNOW HER BUT WORKED WITH HER DAUGHTER HOLLY, SHE LOVED DOGS AND LOVED HER FLOERS A KINDRED SPIRIT IN THE FLOWERS. SHE AND HER HUSBAND RAISED KINDHEARTED CHILDREN. TAKING CARE AND HELPING THERE PARENTS. MAY GOD GIVE HER A . HUGS WHEN HE SEES HER. SO SORRY PA, GARY, HOLLY AND HEIDI

Janet Gillotte - January 24 at 01:32 PM

PP

“ We met thru our kids. She was always so welcoming and happy. She will be missed by so many. Love and prayers to the family.

Phyllis Payment - January 24 at 08:15 AM

ST

“ I remember my Aunt Tootsie would take my brother Terry and I to a riding stable in Hessel. In the fall we would leave the hunting cabin and go riding for an hour. Once she took all us kids to a horse pull in Hessel on a Saturday afternoon. My brother Rob and Aunt Tootsies son Gary each won a chicken at the horse pull. We all headed back to the cabin with those two chickens. ON the way home my dad stopped at a house out there and asked if they wanted those two chickens. and they took them. We had a suspicion they ended in a soup pot. They were never seen again.

Sharolyn Templeton - January 23 at 09:35 PM

JF

“ We will never forget your welcoming smile and laughter and the wonderful memories at the lake. With love and respect.
Jill, Joy, Jan & Dave

Jan Marika Fitz - January 23 at 07:09 PM