



## Mildred Elaine Stopa

August 20, 1923 - August 8, 2020

Mildred Elaine Stopa passed away peacefully on August 8, 2020 at the age of 96, just 12 days before her 97th birthday, from COVID-19. The family wishes to thank her wonderful caregivers at Holyoke Healthcare Center.

Millie was born August 20, 1923 in Holyoke, MA, daughter of Joseph Stopa and Katherine Witek Stopa, both of whom emigrated from Poland, near Krakow. She lived in Chicopee, MA most of her life. She attended Chicopee High School, Holyoke Business School, and Western New England College.

Mildred and her former husband, Frederick Pelczarski, owned and ran Fred's Variety Store on Park Street in Holyoke during the 1950's. Later, she worked as a Secretary and Office Manager, then as a Financial Assistance Social Worker for the State of Massachusetts until her retirement in 1987.

Millie loved singing, ballroom dancing, visiting flower gardens, and touring museums. She enjoyed Polish culture, food, and music. She also loved to travel; highlights included trips to London, Rome, Poland, and Hawaii. Reading historical biographies and watching PBS programs were among her favorite pastimes; she was an avid fan of Downton Abbey and Call the Midwife.

She attended mass at St. Anthony's and St. Stanislaus Churches in Chicopee, and was a member of Parents Without Partners, the Polish Women's Alliance, the Chicopee Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Polish Cultural Society of Chicopee. Mildred leaves two daughters, Christina Moriarty of Cambridge, MA and Sheila Pelczarski of Denver, CO; granddaughter Julia Flannery, grandson-in-law Francis Flannery, and great-grandson Connor Flannery of Holyoke, MA. She also leaves a brother, Irwin Stopa of Bradenton, FL and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters, Stasia Bonavito of Holyoke, MA and Gladys Vassallo of Enfield, CT and Philadelphia, PA. Funeral arrangements were made by Kozikowski Funeral Home, flowers arranged by McCelland's Florist, and she was buried in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Chicopee, MA after a private service. Memorial contributions can be made to your local Public Radio or Public TV station, or to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery

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## St Stanislaus Cemetery

Chicopee, MA,