



Angela "Nellie" Przybylowicz

September 16, 1927 - January 9, 2021

Angela C. "Nellie" (Zamachaj) Przybylowicz, 93, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, January 9, 2021, with loving family at her side. Born September 16, 1927, daughter of the late Antoni and Marya Zamachaj, she was affectionately known as Nellie, derived from the Polish version of Angela, being Aniela. In her late teens she was a dance instructor with the Polish National Alliance, teaching Polish folk dances for Group 522-the Wianek Wreath- at the Pulaski Club in Willimansett. She played trumpet with the family band, where her brother Stanley played bass fiddle and her brother John played the accordion for local parties and weddings. Working at Spaulding, she not only made golf clubs but also shells for 20mm. guns during World War II. Nellie and her sister Clara sang with the Vic Curley Orchestra and then were featured headliners with the renowned Joe Lazarz Orchestra, performing throughout New England and beyond. Along with the Lazarz Orchestra they recorded dozens of 78rpm record albums and are mentioned in the International Polka Hall of Fame. During the war, Clara and Nellie sold war bonds in Connecticut after their performances. Nellie met Chester Przybylowicz at a dance at St. Anthony's parish hall. The Army private first-class eventually wore down the attractive redhead, who rebuffed him at first, and they married in 1956. As their family of six children came along, her career shifted to that of Mother. In earlier years, not only did she care for her kids, but also for her wheel-chair bound mother for about ten years. During this time, participation in church activities at St. Anthony's was the centerpiece

of her family life, including being a member of the Rosary Society. Angela was an alto in the choir, and also the organist, playing by heart, customizing the hymns to the family of the deceased at funerals. She and Chester also sang with the St. Stanislaus Basilica choir for years when the Polish music at St. Anthony's was discontinued. After their children left home, Nellie and Chester joined the Chicopee Senior Center, where she volunteered to guide seniors through their exercise routines for over two decades. At age seventy-two she went to evening school and received her GED certificate on June 21, 1999. Nellie's lawn and gardens were the envy of the neighborhood. She was a master gardener, with a knack for making the yard a constant bouquet. She canned and froze the vegetables she and her father grew so her family could enjoy the summer bounty year round. Her pierogi were a specialty, making them for holidays, special occasions and as gifts. Angela was predeceased in 1996 by her beloved husband of nearly forty years, Chester C. Przybylowicz, and is survived by her loving children, Patricia Guilmette of Chicopee, Thomas Przybylowicz of Rocky Hill, CT, Mary Waldron and her late husband John of Brockton, Theresa Przybylowicz of Belchertown, Chester Przybylowicz, Jr. and wife Jill of Chelmsford, and Kristine Clark and husband Len of West Barnstable; seven cherished grandchildren, Erica Martins and husband Jonathan with great-grandson Lucas, Casey Waldron Perez and husband Daveson, and Alex, Allison, Anna, Andrew and Abigail Przybylowicz. She was predeceased by her sister, Clara Zawada, and brothers, Stanley and John Zamachaj. Funeral services for Angela will be held Tuesday from Kozikowski Funeral Home, 565 Front St., Chicopee, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11AM in St. Anthony of Padua Church. Mass will be livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/Kmzyla8F5dc>. Burial will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Calling hours are Tuesday from 9-10:30AM. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Church, 56 St. Anthony St., Chicopee, MA 01013 or Baystate VNA and Hospice, c/o Baystate Health Foundation, 280 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01104.

Eulogy:

MOM HAD A GOOD LIFE AND SHE HAS SAID SO HERSELF.

AS THE YOUNGEST OF 4 KIDS BORN TO POLISH IMMIGRANTS, MOM SAID THAT SHE HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD, BROUGHT UP TO BE CLOSE TO THE CHURCH WHICH HER PARENTS HELPED FOUND- THIS VERY ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH IN CHICOPEE.

AS A YOUNG GIRL, MOM WALKED TO THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE ON CHICOPEE STREET AND ON SNOWY DAYS, WAS CARRIED BY HER DAD. DURING SUMMERS, WHEN MOM WAS AROUND 12 YEARS OLD, SHE TOWED HER LITTLE RED WAGON TO KIRBY SCHOOL ON MEETINGHOUSE ROAD, A MILE AWAY, TO GET TRAINED ON HOW TO CAN FOOD AT THE 4-H PROGRAM THERE, PUTTING UP CORN, STRING BEANS, AND CARROTS FOR THE WINTER AND WINNING PRIZE RIBBONS FOR HER CANNED BEETS AND ONIONS. SHE HELPED HER PARENTS ON THE FAMILY FARM, GROWING CORN AND POTATOES AMONG OTHER VEGETABLES AND TENDING TO THE CHICKENS, COWS, PIGS AND HER DAD'S HORSE.

AS A TEENAGER, SHE TAUGHT POLISH DANCE AND SINGING CLASSES WITH THE WIANEK (OR WREATH) GROUP IN CHICOPEE. MOM ALSO PLAYED TRUMPET IN THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND. SHE LOVED SINGING AND DANCING AND MADE A CAREER OF IT.

AT AROUND 15 YEARS OLD, SHE JOINED HER OLDER SISTER CLARA, SINGING WITH POLISH BANDS, EVENTUALLY WITH THE RENOWN JOE LAZARZ ORCHESTRA. ON WEEKENDS, THEY'D PLAY IN CHICOPEE AND HOLYOKE, AND TRAVELLED TO HARTFORD, CT., NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANNIA AND OHIO WHERE ATTENDEES STOOD IN A LINE THAT SNAKED AROUND THE BLOCK TO SEE THE BAND AND THE

ZAMACHAJ SISTERS. WITH THE BAND, CLARA AND NELL RECORDED DOZENS OF 78rpm RECORDS AND ARE LISTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLKA HALL OF FAME. AFTER HER SINGING CAREER, SHE WOULD CONTINUE ANCHORING THE ALTO SECTIONS, SINGING IN CHURCH CHOIRS AT BOTH ST. ANTHONY'S AND ST. STANISLAUS' FOR MOST OF HER LIFE.

PRIOR TO GETTING MARRIED, MOM WORKED AT SPALDING'S IN THE GOLF CLUB DIVISION FOR OVER 10 YEARS, NOT ONLY MAKING GOLF CLUBS, BUT ALSO SHELLS FOR 20mm. GUNS DURING WWII . THEN HER GLAMOROUS LIFE MADE A BIG TURN WHEN SHE MET OUR DAD, CHESTER, AT A DANCE HELD IN THE BASEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, NOW THE PARISH CENTER. THE HOTSY-TOTSY REDHEAD WASN'T TOO IMPRESSED WITH THE ARMY PRIVATE AT FIRST, BUT DAD PERSISTED AND WORE HER DEFENSES DOWN.

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1956, MOM AND DAD GOT MARRIED AND HOSTED 500 GUESTS AT THEIR WEDDING RECEPTION AT PULASKI CLUB IN WILLIMANSETT. 10 MONTHS LATER, MOM GAVE BIRTH TO ME AND THEN CAME CHET, TERRY, MARY, TOM AND PATTY, GIVING BIRTH TO 6 KIDS IN 8 YEARS. SHE DID IT THE HARD WAY, REARING US KIDS WHILE BEING PREGNANT MOST OF THAT TIME AND TAKING CARE OF HER MOTHER, OUR BABCI, WHO WAS WHEEL-CHAIR BOUND FOR AROUND 10 YEARS AND HAD DEMENTIA. MOM ALSO CARED FOR HER FATHER, OUR DZIADZIU, WHO LIVED WITH US INTO HIS 90'S. IN ADDITION TO BEING A DEVOTED WIFE, MOM DID A HEROIC JOB OF CARING FOR HER FAMILY.

WITH DZIADIU, MOM TENDED A VEGETABLE GARDEN AND FROZE AND CANNED CORN, TOMATOES, PICKLES AND LOTS OF VEGETABLES THAT SUSTAINED OUR FAMILY THROUGH THE YEAR. SHE WAS ALSO A METICULOUS GARDENER WITH FLOWERS AND SHRUBS THAT EARNED COMPLIMENTS FROM PASSING NEIGHBORS. MOM WAS SUCH A CONSTANT LAWN MOWER THAT I REMEMBER DAD SAYING THAT MOM

WAS "KEEPING THE A-RABS RICH". MOM ALSO ENJOYED OPERATING THE HOODED SNOW TRACTOR THAT TOMMY BOUGHT HER, EVER ANXIOUS TO GET THE DRIVEWAY CLEARED OF SNOW.

AFTER HER PARENTS PASSED AWAY AND THE KIDS GREW UP AND LEFT THE HOME, MOM OBTAINED HER MASTER GARDENER'S CERTIFICATE AND AFTERWARDS, WENT TO SCHOOL TO EARNED HER G.E.D. CERTIFICATE AT AGE 72. WE WERE PROUD OF HER AT HER GRADUATION.

AFTER DAD'S HEART SURGERY, HE WAS PRESCRIBED TO ATTEND GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE SENIOR CENTER 3 TIMES A WEEK AND MOM JOINED HIM. WHEN DAD PASSED AWAY IN 1996, MOM CONTINUED WITH THE EXERCISE CLASSES, EVENTUALLY BECOMING A VOLUNTEER LEADER THERE WHERE SHE SERVED FOR 24 YEARS. WHEN HER FAMILY GREW, MOM REVELED IN THE JOYS THAT THE GRANDKIDS BROUGHT HER- ERICA, CASEY ANGELA, ALEX, ALLI, ANNA, ANDREW AND ABBY. THE LATEST SPARKLE WAS LUCAS, MOM'S GREAT GRANDSON, TERRY'S GRANDSON.

AT 93 YEARS OLD, MOM'S HARD-WORKED BODY WAS GIVING OUT AND SHE WAS "READY TO SEE DADDY". AFTER SHE BRAVELY CHOSE TO GO ONTO HOSPICE CARE NEARLY A YEAR AGO, SHE WAS ABLE TO TAKE HER LAST BREATH IN THE HOME IN WHICH SHE TOOK HER FIRST.

MOM CAN NOW SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE JOINING HER BELOVED HUSBAND, PARENTS, SIBLINGS AND ALL THOSE FOR WHOM SHE CARED WHO HAD PASSED BEFORE HER. IN OUR QUIET TIMES, WE WILL LISTEN FOR HER STRONG AND KEEN HARMONY, SINGING WITH THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE-- MOM, BABCI, ANIELA, ANGIE, CIOCI NELL-- IN OUR LIVES AND WE WILL MISS HER UNTIL IT'LL BE OUR TIME TO JOIN HER IN HEAVEN.

Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Cemetery

800 Montgomery St.
Chicopee , MA 01013

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Kozikowski Funeral Home
565 Front Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
(413) 592-9256
kozikowskifh@gmail.com

Mass

JAN 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony of Padua Church
St. Anthony St.
Chicopee, MA

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



c - January 18, 2021 at 12:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Theresa A Przybylowicz - January 17, 2021 at 05:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Theresa A Przybylowicz - January 17, 2021 at 05:46 PM

TP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Theresa A Przybylowicz - January 17, 2021 at 05:45 PM

TP

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Theresa A Przybylowicz - January 17, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kozikowski Funeral Home - January 15, 2021 at 02:49 PM

JP

Absolutely beautiful video and a wonderful tribute to your mom. Such awesome memories. God bless you Cioc ! Enjoy your new home. Always in our hearts. Jas.

John Przybylowicz - January 15, 2021 at 10:45 PM

GN

This was a beautiful tribute to your mom's legacy. These memories will always keep her close to your hearts. Blessings.

Gwen Nauls - January 16, 2021 at 09:16 AM

YS

*Wonderful video of cherished memories! Thank you for sharing some of your amazing Mom that I have known for many years! GOD bless all of you at this very sad time. Looking forward to watching the Mass service Tuesday live streamed from St Anthony parish.
Yvette Swol from Umatilla, FL*

Yvette Swoll - January 17, 2021 at 12:00 PM

LD

Wonderful video. I was in Tom's class in school, St. Stan's. So sorry to hear about your mother, but what a great, close family you had, the pictures are amazing.

Linda Kurdziel Damon - January 18, 2021 at 04:31 PM

HD

So sorry to hear about the passing of Nellie. I am a polka dj and featured her last Saturday singing with her sister and Joe Lazarz. A beautiful tribute to a lovely lady. Thank you. RIP Nellie Zamajaj. God Bless.

Helen Curtin, POlka dj - January 24, 2021 at 04:45 PM

KK

“ My Deepest Sympathy



Kevin M. Kearns - January 15, 2021 at 12:54 PM