



Tamara Valentine

August 17, 1946 - August 7, 2020

SCHUYLER – Tamara Valentine, 73, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 7, 2020, at home, surrounded by the love of her family.

She was born in Bamberg, Germany, August 17, 1946, a daughter of Walter and Anna Ripka of Ukraine. Her family then migrated to America in 1949. On October 1, 1989, she was married to James Valentine, a union of 26 years. She attended Atlantic Union College (Massachusetts) and later received a Master's in Education.

Tamara was a well-known, much-loved school teacher at Columbus Elementary School in Utica. She taught collectively for 20 years and enjoyed doing so. It was one of her many passions. Tamara was kind, genuine, and giving. She touched everyone's life she came in contact with. In her free time, you could find her playing piano, maintaining her flower and vegetable gardens, and putting together packages to send to Ukraine and Moldova. Alongside her genuine compassion, her most aesthetic trait was her consuming love for God. She was a loved member of the Utica International Seventh Day Adventist Church. She had a special way of instilling her knowledge and love of God's word through preaching, holding bible studies in her home, and witnessing her faith with people. She was witty, adventurous, and generous. She was devoted to her children, education, and love of God. Tamara's strength, love, and ministry has been spread through nations. She will be missed but her imprint will carry on.

Tamara is survived by her children, James "JT" Tanury, K'la A. Valentine and Kari Tanury; grandchild, Oksana Valentine; siblings, loving brother, Alexander Ripka; sisters, Mary Ripka, Antoinette "Toni" (Peter) Lenuzza, and Ruth (Donald) Kollmeyer.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life on Sunday, August 16, at 2 p.m. at the Slavic Pentecostal Church, 2191 NY-5, Utica.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Tamara's name may be made to the ALS Association Upstate New York Chapter at www.alsupstateny.org.

Arrangements are under the direction of McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors, 470 French Rd., Utica.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life**02:00PM

16

Slavic Pentecostal Church

2191 NY-5 Utica, NY, US

Comments



“ My husband, David, and his family knew Tammy as a young teen. I was privileged to meet her a few years later. We were all part of a wonderful church youth group that included both teens and many young couples -- what fun and wonderful memories we all shared together!

We send our condolences to the Ripka Family during this time of bereavement. May God comfort and strengthen you all...

With Sympathy,

David and Maureen Verdura, Smyrna, Tennessee

David & Maureen Verdura - September 16 at 07:56 PM



“ Mrs. Valentine was my favorite elementary school teacher. Some of my most vivid childhood memories are in that third grade at Columbus Elementary, 22 years ago. She was a great teacher and will always be remembered. My condolences to your entire family.

With Love,
Olga L.

Olga L. - August 17 at 02:37 PM



“ Have fond memories of her giving heart-----I even remember when the Ripka family arrived in Herkimer, New York in 1949 . She will always be remembered for her caring heart. Trust that happy memories will bring comfort to all of you. Jerry and Kathy Sakowski, North Carolina.

Jerry & Kathy SAKowski - August 16 at 09:01 AM



“ Vicky David lit a candle in memory of Tamara Valentine



Vicky David - August 15 at 07:02 PM



“ There are many good people you meet throughout your lifetime, but Tamara is on top of that list. You can not describe with words how much her and her brother Alex did for our family. We are so grateful to the whole Ripka family for everything that they did for us. Tamara had a big and good heart. We send our condolences to the whole family, especially Alex and her children. We will miss her great greatfully. Rest in peace, Tamara. With love, Sosna and Lipunov family.

Lyubov Sosna - August 14 at 09:34 AM



“ It was a pleasure to work with her at Columbus school as her classes lunch monitor. She was kind, generous and caring. I'll always remember her. To her family... so sorry for your loss. Rest In Peace .

A. Cornacchia - August 12 at 09:57 PM



“ My friend and sister in Christ. We will see each other again when at His second coming Jesus calls forth from our sleep. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Randy - August 12 at 12:11 PM



“ Galya Ripka purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Tamara Valentine.



Galya Ripka - August 12 at 10:02 AM



“ Tammy had a wonderful soul, and was always so upbeat and proud of her heritage. She will be missed by all who had the honor to know her.
Rest peacefully, Tammy.
Janet Lallier

JK Lallier - August 11 at 11:39 PM



“ Our family spent many hours together yesrs ago when our children were young. Great memories!

May the Lord comfort and fill your family with peace!

Jim and Carol Murphy - August 13 at 09:23 AM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tamara Valentine.



August 11 at 11:09 PM



“ Alex,Tonya,Mary, Ruth and kids. I'm so sorry to hear of Tammys passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Brenda Gruet - August 11 at 05:34 PM