



Freida Louise Clark

March 9, 1922 - April 12, 2012

Springtime journey to heaven, Freida Louise Clark of Cadillac passed away Thursday evening, April 12, 2012 at her daughter's home in Cadillac with her family by her side.

Freida was born March 9, 1922 in South Boardman to Elton and Joyce (Roundsville) Neihardt. She attended schools in South Boardman, Ewart and graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1941. She married Joseph Clark March 13, 1942 in Kalkaska, shortly after their marriage Joe was off to serve his country during WWII. Frieda moved to Cadillac and went to work at the B.F. Goodrich plant making airplane parts for the war effort.

After Joe returned from Europe, he and Freida settled into the "Sixth Street House" and expanded their family. Like most families in the 1940s-50s, Freida was a housewife, staying home with the children. Freida began working at Mercy Hospital in 1959 and retired in 1987. She loved working at Mercy and meeting people while working. She attended the Salvation Army Chapel and also volunteered at the Red Shield for more than 40 years. She enjoyed sewing quilts, dolls, stuffed animals and doll cloths. Every member of the family has at least one hand sewn quilt and the Red Shield Store has been stocked with the hand crafted items made by Freida for years. Her greatest pastime was undoubtedly talking, if you knew her you would agree! After their retirement, Joe and Freida spent their winters in Brooksville, Florida, where they met and enjoyed couples from many states.

Everyone has a favorite memory of Freida. In the mid-1960s Freida had every Thursday off. She spent the morning baking cinnamon rolls and making bean soup around noon, cars of hungry high school kids with three of her children and their friends would arrive at "Clark's" for hot cinnamon rolls and bean soup. In the 1970s through the 1990s Freida kept herself occupied with work, volunteering, sewing and gardening and being a grandmother. She and Joe were active members of the Cadillac Rolling Relics.

Joe passed away on July 14, 2006 in their 65th year of marriage. Freida is survived by six children: Ron (Mary) Neihardt of Cadillac, Gary (Sharon) Clark of Brooksville, Florida, R.

Robert (Cindy) Clark of Freeland, Dennis (Nancy) Clark of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Juanita (Tim) Philo of Cadillac and David (Mary) Clark of Traverse City; seventeen grandchildren: Rhonda (Jack) Duncan, Cathy Davis, Kelly (Kevin) Johnston, Merry (Cole) Dickerson, Kurt (Rebecca) Clark, Laura (Dave) Sisco, Cheri Clark, Tyler Clark, Michelle (Jerry) Burke, Melissa (Mark) Sisson, Beth (John) Calvo, Angie (Marc) Evans, Kerry (Peter) Philo-Farbish, Dennis Philo, Patrick Philo, Brandee (Josh) Ludka and Adam (Sarah) Clark; 26 great grandchildren; 14 great- great grandchildren; a half-brother, D. James (Betty) Stats and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband Joseph, she was preceded in death by her sisters: Addie Neihardt in 1941, Hope Smith in 1999, Dawn Hoitenga in 2005 and her brothers Robert Neihardt, WWII in 1944 and Dale Neihardt in 2003, her parents, two nephews and three nieces and many friends.

Frieda's life will be celebrated with a funeral service held 11:00 AM, Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac with Captain Mark Nance officiating. Burial will take place at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac, next to her husband Joe. Friends may meet the family Monday from 6:00- 8:00 PM at the Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers please remember Frieda with a memorial contribution to the Salvation Army or charity of choice. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

GN

“ *What a great lady she will be missed for sure by all this knew her.*

Gordon Neihardt - April 23, 2012 at 08:07 AM

KJ

“ *Dear Gram, There are very few times in life when the term bittersweet really fits. There are even fewer times that you experience the sensation. When we last saw each other (Summer 2011), that was bittersweet. Years previous-right before Christmas after Gram Wilson passed , I asked you to stay (live) to the summer so that I could bring Chelsea and Dylan (only 2 of your many greats) to Michigan for a visit. I had been so fortunate to have both Grandmothers well into their 80' s and my children even more fortunate knowing and adoring both Great Grams , I wanted this gift to continue. You obliged, however that summer only Dylan visited. That summer you were slower, but still had so much to say and tell; the stories now took on a current vibe as " Drama Queen" came into your vocabulary (I don' t know who or what was a Drama Queen, I was so use to the terms Outfit or Rum-Dum, so I was a little sidetracked by Drama Queen). Again, I asked you to wait one more summer and Chelsea would visit. You again obliged, this time telling me that you would probably be blind, but you stayed. This past summer you were not blind, but you were so tired and wanted so badly to speak what your eyes and smile were saying, I understood that day how selfish it would have been to ask you to stay again. As the three of us said our goodbyes, you walked slowly out with me and gave me a hug. There was nothing said or no tears shed, I felt this was the same kind of hug we had at our first meeting 45 years before. Just a perfect moment of quiet love and grace. I knew then this was good-bye and had I not had a strong sense of pride, strength, and pure love (all of which you exemplified and taught) , this bittersweet would have ripped me to sheds and I would have fallen to pieces . Instead I swallowed a huge lump in my throat, embraced and understood the moment, and am so thankful that I had the chance to lovingly say good-bye to one of my first hellos. Thank you so much for giving me a bittersweet, you are truly one of my first loves. Kelly Jo*

Kelly Jo - April 18, 2012 at 08:25 PM

KF

“ *Love you Grandma ! I will miss our visits..*

Kurt Clark and family - April 17, 2012 at 05:36 PM

IR

“ *Freida was a very hard worker and a wonderful lady. She will be missed!*

Ivan & Glenda Sue Robertson - April 17, 2012 at 09:44 AM

PH

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of the Clark family at the loss of your mother. She was a kind ,sweet woman. I remember playing with her children back in the 50' s when I attended Whittier school. God Bless y' all as you bid fare well to your mother.*

Patricia Laizure Hankins - April 17, 2012 at 12:08 AM