



## Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart

November 17, 1952 - August 10, 2020

Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart "Punky," known by many for her volunteer activities, died August 10, 2020 at the age of 67. Doretta was born, raised, and lived her life in Charlotte, Michigan, and loved her community and giving back through many organizations. Born November 17, 1952 to Roger and Dorothy (Shaul) Pruden, she graduated from Charlotte High School in 1970 and spent over 20 years with Carter's as a store employee, manager, and working in the corporate office. Prior to that, Doretta worked with her best friend, Barb, at the Charlotte Country Club for 13 years. Some of her many volunteer activities include: Relay For Life participant and board member for many years; Charlotte Frontier Days committee member for many years, as well as General Chairman for multiple years, and Grand Marshall in 2015; and Pottersville VFW Auxiliary working often at BINGO.

Doretta was not only loved and admired by her community for her generosity, but also by her family for her kind ways and always finding time for the important things in life. She was very proud of her daughters and her 4 grandsons, and really enjoyed trips to the family cabin in Harrison, and she dearly loved her Bassett Hounds Sam and Maggie and Shih Tzu Bella. Doretta was loyal, generous, and a hard worker, and gained even more admiration from her family and friends with the strength she showed during the struggles she faced over the years.

Doretta will be missed dearly by her family, including daughters, Melissa (Bryan) Foster, Marci (Jerry) Kohler; grandsons Blake, Bryson, Carson, and Bronx; brothers, Robert (Vickie) Pruden; Anthony Rodriguez, Tim Rodriguez, Dean (Candace) Rodriguez; sisters, Susanne Rodriguez (Todd Trowbridge), and Annette (Brian) Davis; step-mother, Jackie Pruden; many nieces and nephews; and dear friends, Barb Powers, Sue Wolcott, and Roxanne Ripley. She was predeceased by her husbands, , Michael Malerba II in 1987, Michael Cathcart in 2015; best bud Steve Cyphert; and her parents. The family is at peace knowing that Doretta is reunited with her son, Michael Malerba III, who passed away in 2007.

Visitation will be at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte on Friday, August 14, 2020, 2-4:00 PM

and 6-8:00 PM. Funeral services are Saturday, August 15, 11:00 AM in the Pray Funeral Home Garden with Pastor Charles Jenson officiating. Mask and social distancing guidelines are required during visitation and funeral services. The funeral service will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Doretta's tribute, and then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Just prior to the beginning of the service, a link will appear on this page to watch the webcast. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the House of Ruth or Special Olympics Michigan Area 8. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Doretta on her Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Cemetery Details

## Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

AUG 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home Gardens  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart*



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - August 14, 2020 at 11:59 AM

PP

*Great tribute to your Mom!! She will be missed by many. Loved the song choices, I was crying the whole time. Marcie I applaud you for being able to get up and speak that was very touching. We love you girls. Penny and Angie*

**Penny Pickett** - August 15, 2020 at 11:48 AM

JP

*So sorry for not being there, but the sermon was beautiful . God Bless you Punky, rest in peace Jackie*

**Jackie Pruden** - August 15, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart*



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - August 13, 2020 at 11:59 AM

AB

“ *Amy Barnhouse lit a candle in memory of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart*



**amy barnhouse** - June 16, 2021 at 09:13 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dean Rodriguez - August 15, 2020 at 10:28 AM

KT

“ Punk and I go back more than 50+ years. Barb Mills Wells and Punky were the first friends I made after moving back to Charlotte in 1963. I'm so glad that we was able to get together a couple times before the virus it. I will always cherish our friendship.

*I just know she is happy to be with her son and husband again!*

*Until we meet again someday Love you Punk!*

*Kay Mahan Thorndyke*

Kay Mahan Thorndyke - August 15, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ grew up with punky in the neighborhood of amity and forest R.I.P. PUNKY

Lowell Hogle - August 14, 2020 at 07:25 PM

AH

“ Never will we forget Ms. PUNKY.. Sad to hear of her passing.. She lived down the road from us... Our son Kellan used to go down the road and hang out with her grandson Blake..her kindness will not ever be forgotten.. She took the time to bring some donuts to our home.. for our kids when Kellan had passed last year... She said she felt like he was a son to her as well and it really comforted me and I understood exactly what I feel she was everyone's Mrs. PUNKY... Spunky Punky.. Love to all her family and friends! May the Shalom and comfort of The Heavenly Father be with you all! Amber and Family

Amber Hurd - August 14, 2020 at 06:09 PM

AH

*Meant to say I understood what she was sharing and I feel she was evwryone's Punky!*

Amber Hurd - August 14, 2020 at 06:11 PM

AH

*It brings me comfort picturing her beside a stream with Kellan and micheal with Yahushua*

Amber Hurd - August 15, 2020 at 08:51 AM

ME

*Thank you so much for sharing this Amber.*

**Melissa** - September 09, 2020 at 09:29 AM

TC

“ *I'm so saddened upon learning the loss of Doretta. She was such a giving, caring, selfless woman who made her mark in our community. I was honored to be a fellow Frontier Days Board member and serve with her as our leader. She always had the best interest of the festival and Charlotte as her home. Her family was by far her greatest source of pride... she will be sorely missed!* ”

**Terri Cicorelli** - August 14, 2020 at 04:40 PM

MF

*Thank you so much Terri for your kind words!*

**Melissa Foster** - September 09, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.* ”



August 14, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.* ”



August 14, 2020 at 07:15 AM

TF

“ *The Bialkowski Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.* ”



**The Bialkowski Family** - August 13, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ 39 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 13, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.

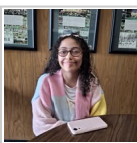


August 12, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ *Your Brother and I will miss you so much..that smile our talks will sure be missed.. we love you so very much.. until we meet again.... Robert Vickie Pruden..*

Vickie Pruden - August 12, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ *I remember amazing summer days. The walk to your house was nothing compared to all the fun we had. Aunt Punky I'm gonna miss you terribly. But I'm so grateful for a lifetime of memories filled with love.*

Nichole Goto - August 12, 2020 at 02:55 PM



*Punky you will be missed. You and Bobby were like family. Some day we will see each other again.*

Donna Royston - August 12, 2020 at 06:30 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.*



August 12, 2020 at 02:11 PM

TF

“ *Tamara and Jim Lewellyn families purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.*



**Tamara and Jim Lewellyn families** - August 12, 2020 at 01:15 PM

LF

“ *Love, Cari, Starr, Kris, Tawna and families purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.*



**Love, Cari, Starr, Kris, Tawna and families** - August 12, 2020 at 12:13 PM

MG

“ *We are so sorry to have lost our dear friend. We take comfort in knowing that she will be reunited with our beloved brother Michael. Please know how much we all loved her.*  
*The Guys from the House of Ruth.*

**Matt Gager** - August 12, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Doretta Kay Malerba-Cathcart.*



August 12, 2020 at 08:00 AM

CT

“ *THOSE WHO ARE TRULY LOVED*

*By Craig C. Turner*  
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*Those who are truly loved  
Will never pass away  
They live within the rainbow  
On a misty sunny day.  
Those who are truly loved  
Will always be with us  
Their memory is eternal  
A love that never rusts.  
So smile in the knowing  
That they'll always be with you  
They're the colors of the rainbow  
Love illuminates their hues*

*Those who are truly loved  
Live on for eternity  
But now their pain is gone  
They live in serenity  
Those who are truly loved  
Will always come to mind  
In the simplest of things  
The common little find.  
So live in the knowing  
That those who are truly loved  
Live on within the rainbows  
You see in the mist above.*

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**Craig Turner** - August 11, 2020 at 08:54 PM

MF

*Beautiful Craig. Thank you for sharing*

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**Melissa Foster** - August 13, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ *You were a huge part of our childhood and adulthood life. You brought us so much love, laughter and wonderfully awesome memories to share with our kids. You are gonna be missed so much. Hug all the Mike's and Dad for us!*

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**Tawna Cyphert** - August 11, 2020 at 08:46 PM

VH

“ Sorry for your loss. I remember Doretta and Micheal sitting and watching Missy dance. Great memories of the family. Prayers are with the entire family ❤️🙏

Valli Halbeisen - August 11, 2020 at 08:09 PM

SK

“ Melissa, Bryan, Bryson and Bronx-

*I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts, my heart and my prayers.*

*While reading about what an truly amazing person your mom was, I realized that she raised her daughter to be exactly like her....kind, thoughtful, loving and such a great mom herself.*

*Melissa, I can only imagine how proud she was to be your Mom and know what a wonderful daughter she raised!*

*RIP*

*RIP*

Sherri King - August 11, 2020 at 07:42 PM

LG

“ Doretta.. I am so sad to have to say good bye to you so soon! I will never forget how generous you were as you came to pick me up to ride to work @ Peckham. You were a great friend and confidant!! We had lots of fun and shared loads of memories together!! I will miss you my friend, and Until we see each other again, I will think about all the good times!! Please say hello to Michael III and tell my Mom I Love her always.. Love you too, and I was happy to tell you that while you were here!! Thank You so much for thinking of me on my Birthday.. I didn' t even see the birthday wish until after I found out you had left us....

Laura Griffin - August 11, 2020 at 07:15 PM

LG

*Hello again... I just wanted to clarify that we worked together for the National Passport Information Center as Customer Service Reps...*

Laura Griffin - August 11, 2020 at 07:25 PM

LG

“ Oh where to begin ..I will forever miss you until we can be together again . I am so glad you stopped by Savannah last winter to say Hi and to meet Craig . You are a strong soul .. Your strength got me through some really tough times ! I choose to remember the great times . Camping, boating , Frontier Days , traveling to Washington DC , you coming to help me when my Mom was passing . I felt comfort with you being there . Helping you with your girls weddings was a great honor . Sorry we did not get to Ride that river boat, but I will get there one day and think of you my dear, dear friend . Love ya, For always

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**Linda Gill** - August 11, 2020 at 05:40 PM