



## Maxine Ruth Harag

November 7, 1924 - August 4, 2016

Maxine Ruth Harag, 91, formerly of Charlotte, died peacefully on Thursday, August 4, 2016 in Grand Rapids, MI. Maxine was born on November 7, 1924, in Vermontville, MI, the daughter of Henry and Dorothy Joppie. As a child, she enjoyed time with her many brothers and sisters. She also played the saxophone, which developed an early love for music. Shortly after graduating high school, in 1942, she married Karl Neff in Texas, where he was stationed in the service. She gave birth to her first two children, Karen and Gary. Maxine realized in those moments her deep love for motherhood, and instilled in her children a sense of hard work while teaching them many life lessons. She later married Joe Harag on July 3, 1952. Joe became father to Karen and Gary, and the family added four more daughters, Mary Jo, Frances and twins, Betty and Bonnie. Maxine and Joe built their first home and later bought and moved to the farm on McConnell Hwy.

Maxine loved working side by side with Joe on the farm - driving tractor, planting, moving truckloads of grain to the elevator, and keeping the yard and housework in order. She also loved gardening and canning, especially canning tomatoes, corn, green beans, home-made pickles, jams, and many other delicious home-grown foods. She continued her role as loving mother, providing love, support and wisdom. She helped with homework, school projects, sewing and mending, played games at the kitchen table, and even jumped in the pool after dark on occasion. Many family and friends will

remember her cooking, bringing everyone together for Kolaches, pies, and the best potato salad in the land.

After Joe's early death, she kept the farm a few years before moving to a condo in downtown Charlotte. She enjoyed her condo neighbors and breakfast with family and friends at the Eaton Place. She volunteered at Hayes Green Beach Hospital in the gift shop, and spent much of her time helping in the community. Above all, she enjoyed time with her children and grandchildren. She loved holding the new babies and attending the many graduation parties and events throughout their busy lives. In 2003, she broke her hip and leg, but, after a long recovery, remained a part of her family's life, spending time with her daughters and visiting family on the weekends. Many will remember her nurturing spirit and love for family.

Maxine is survived by her children; Karen (Denny) Gierzak of Hesperia, MI, Gary (Regina) Neff of Sanford, FL, Mary Jo (Dave) Miller of Williamston, MI, Frances Dietrich of Kentwood, MI, Betty (Jay) Harag-Murdoch of Grand Rapids, MI, and Bonnie (Mike) Lange of Grayling, MI; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great grandchild; sister, Phyllis (Emery) Fenstermaker of Wacousta, MI; and brother, Robert Joppie of Charlotte, MI. She was preceded in death by brothers, Earl Joppie of Ludington, MI, and Russel Joppie of Charlotte, MI.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 8, 2016 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Visitation will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Interment will take place in Gresham Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to St. Mary Catholic Church, Charlotte. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Maxine 's Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).



# Cemetery Details

## Gresham Cemetery

4100 Mulliken Rd  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ I'm taking a moment today (once again) to read through the messages left on this site. Thank you all so much for your thoughts and comments. We were so very blessed to have Mom for as long as we did. She was an amazing mother, teacher and role model for all of us. Mom left us with volumes of wonderful memories, smiles, laughs, and moments shared together. While we miss her so very much, we are comforted knowing that she is in a much better place, picking up where she left off with our Dad, family and friends that have passed on. We loved her with all our hearts, and look forward to the day we get to be with her again .... Bonnie (Harag) Lange

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**Bonnie (Harag) Lange** - September 07, 2016 at 09:53 AM

DS

“ Although I did not know Maxine, I went to school and was friends with her daughter Mary Jo...I also lost my mom this year and know the pain and emptiness that comes with it. As much as I miss her, I know she is in a better place and reunited with my father...they'd been apart for over 25 years and are now talking, laughing and enjoying each others' company again.

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**Dawn Shattuck-Watkins** - August 11, 2016 at 10:42 PM

TC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. She will be missed dearly. She was such a sweet lady. I think of her often and miss doing her hair.

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**terri martens combs** - August 11, 2016 at 08:57 AM

CS

“ Our thoughts, prayers and condolences to the friends and family of a wonderful woman. May her laughter and love always be with you.  
-- C. Squires

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**C. Squires** - August 08, 2016 at 08:29 AM

PD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family .Aunt Maxine was a special lady. She always had a smile and made you feel loved when we went to their home. Love  
Craig and Pam DeByle

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**Pam DeByle** - August 07, 2016 at 05:42 AM

CS

“ Maxine has been among the special people in my life for an awful lot of years, in a way I kind of think of her as a member of the family because my sister Fran was married to her brother Bob. She always had the most lovely smile. She will be missed but I'm happy that she can now be with Joe and her mother and Dad as well as brothers Russ and Earl. Love to Bob and Phyllis, Clela Shults

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**Clela Shults** - August 06, 2016 at 12:03 PM