



Marija Zarins Pascuzzi

February 5, 1922 - January 12, 2018

Bluefield, WV - Marija Zarins Pascuzzi, 95, passed this life into her eternal home at Glenwood Retirement Village on January 12, 2018 surrounded by friends and the loving caregivers of the Village.

Marija made her home in Bluefield since 1958 and was preceded in death by her husband Frank Pascuzzi. Marija is survived by a niece, Marija Baslika, of Auce, Latvia in Europe. Left to cherish her memory are the many friends she made over her lifetime, the care givers at Glenwood and her long time special friend and care overseer, Gary Linkous.

Marija was born on February 5, 1922, in a small village in Latvia, Europe. At the age of 20, she came to America from a German refugee camp, the result of the Soviet invasion of Latvia in WWI I. Having studied and completed much of the needed studies in dentistry, she was sponsored by a dentist in Welch, WV where she made her early home in America and Robert and Clara Whitelaw who became lifelong friends and helped her become fluent in the English language. She completed her dental studies at Tufts University in Boston, Ma, in 1952. She was a pioneer in dentistry for women. Marija graduated among the top of her class with only two other female students who studied dentistry at that time.

Marija had several great loves of her life - her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whom she portrayed in her daily life with all the gifts of the spirit, her husband Frank whom she married on Thanksgiving Day in 1961, her life work of dentistry for 42 years and her love of oil painting. Marija painted hundreds of

oil paintings over her lifetime which she gifted to many of her friends. In 2015, over 150 of her paintings were sold at art auction with the proceeds donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 2:00 at Mercer Funeral Home in Bluefield, WV with Pastor David Dockery of First Baptist Church in Princeton presiding. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. An interment service will be conducted in the Monte Vista Cemetery mausoleum, with final interment next to her husband Frank.

In lieu of flowers, in honor and memory of Marija, may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, West Virginia Chapter, 1601 2nd Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia 25387.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home of Bluefield is serving the Pascuzzi family.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV 24701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

JAN 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall



“ *Marija Zarins Pascuzzi*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *My Aunt Marie Maja was a strong , intelligent Christian and funny lady married to my mothers brother Frankie . Her strength from her history was so amazing to me even as a young girl . She was so kind to all of the family . She would give dental care to her in laws . We all have memories of staying with her and my uncle through the tears . As I grew older my husband Becht and I with our daughters would pass through from Fl to Pa and she always wanted us to stay and we did . She was an amazing artist too ! Her life continues on in us and her love and kindness will forever . I miss our Christmas card exchange and all the photos she would send me of her travels . May the Perpetual light shine upon her 🙏*



lorraine ludwico stevens - July 29, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ *Richard & Malinda Whitelaw, Harriet, Miriam, and Andrew purchased the Dearest One Casket Insert for the family of Marija Zarins Pascuzzi.*



Richard & Malinda Whitelaw, Harriet, Miriam, and Andrew -
January 16, 2018 at 11:55 AM

RW

“ Rick and Maka Wellons purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Marija Zarins Pascuzzi.



Rick and Maka Wellons - January 15, 2018 at 11:11 PM



“ Nancy Faris purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Marija Zarins Pascuzzi.



Nancy Faris - January 15, 2018 at 06:15 PM



“ Marina was a beautiful woman with such kindness, love and talent. My mother (now 95) and I enjoyed painting with her at East River Arts. I last saw her at the post office in bluefield, WV not too long ago and we had a lovely talk remembering our time painting together. God bless and a peaceful eternal rest for dear Marija.

Nancy Faris - January 15, 2018 at 06:08 PM

TM

Very sweet and kind lady RIP Marija

tina marie - May 30, 2024 at 07:04 PM

LG

“ She was a remarkable person..a great artist .and an inspiration to all of us

Lou Grimm - January 15, 2018 at 04:10 PM

FF

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Fran Faatz - January 15, 2018 at 01:04 PM

FF

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Fran Faatz - January 15, 2018 at 12:54 PM

DC

“ *Marija was my husband's dentist for many years. He liked her very much and had good things to say about her. I am sorry for the loss of such a very special lady.*

Dorothy Chudina - January 14, 2018 at 03:27 PM

MA

“ Yesterday passed away a very good friend of mine, Marija Pascuzzi, at the age of 95. One of the most amazing people I have ever met. She was a person who survived horrifying II World War, has felt all the pain and suffering on her own skin, but yet, she made to United States, became dentist and lived a very interesting long life. Often I hear complaints that some people are given more in life and less fortunate just don't stand a chance. Marija was a living proof that you can be whoever you want to be, and make the best of what you are given in life. Marija was born in a small town, in Latvia. She grew up on a farm. Her family was a hard working family of parents and 3 sisters. With World War 2, their quiet peaceful life turned upside down. Marija's dad was wounded and mom and 3 daughters were trying to carry him to the hospital. A man with a horse sleigh caught up with them on the road and offered help. They put Marija's dad on the sleigh not to lose time, and women continued walking to the hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital they discovered that nobody had brought Marija's dad to the hospital. Till her last day, Marija didn't know what happened to him. After soviets arrived, Marija managed to escape from her town together with another sister, trying to leave the country. Mom and her younger sister decided to stay behind. She never got to see her mom and sister again. They were sent to Siberia by soviets. She made to the ship coming to United States. She had to find a sponsor, and a family of a doctor in Bluefield, offered her help. Her other sister ended up in Canada. Marija studied for dentistry and became first female dentist in Bluefield WV area, known by the name Zarins. She got married and lived on Cumberland Rd. She traveled the world in her lifetime. She went to all the continents of the world except for Antarctica. She was member of the organization Doctors Without Borders. She traveled to Africa 8 times and with her fellow dentists provided free services to the locals. She was member of many charitable organizations and did so many good things for others. Years later she went back to Latvia. She found her sister's daughter and her daughter's son. For years she supported them financially and paid for son's education. When I came to Bluefield very first time in 2010, with Georgian delegation, we were told about this 87

year old lady, who wanted to host one of our group members, and that she was still driving. I knew then she would be a very special person and volunteered to stay with her. I was not disappointed. Marija had approximately 75 albums full of pictures from all over the world. She shared so many stories with me. We had a blast together, and from that moment on, she became very good friend of mine. She was my friend till the last day of her life. She was my inspiration and I learned so much from her. She was a very talented artist on top of her many other gifts, and my house is full of her beautiful paintings. Every wall I look at reminds me of her. She was such an amazing lady...I will never forget her... Even though she had no family member around when she passed away, she still has friends in Bluefield who will remember and love her forever... May God rest you in peace Marija...I'll be missing you my friend!

Maka - January 13, 2018 at 05:36 PM

VC

I met Marjia through my friends, Bill & Karen Spracher. What an inspiring person! Having known Maka through Church, I was delighted to learn more from her about this fascinating & beautiful person. I believe Maka has captured her essence with her comments above. Thank you for sharing your stories of her, Maka. When Marjia learned of my Greek roots, she gave me her album of photos from her 2 trips to Greece. She enjoyed sharing her many traveling experiences. I will add she also enjoyed the companionship of her cat, Mickey, that she was able to keep throughout her latter years at Glenwood! Although my contact with Marjia was rather brief, I will not forget her courage, stamina, love of art and the beautiful, but also her deep and abiding Faith! God grant her eternal rest. May her memory be eternal.
Ginny Chryssikos

Virginia Chryssikos - January 14, 2018 at 08:47 AM

FF

When our children were small and traveling to Pennsylvania to visit our family, we would pass through Bluefield and visit Aunt Marie and Uncle Frankie. She was always gracious and open to visitors. As time went on we would visit when my Uncle was sick. She took care of him and gave him the best care. When my children were grown and Uncle Frankie had passed, my husband and I would visit. We had many good times together. When we visited we attended church with her, we even attended one of her Thanksgiving Dinners that the church had one year. We also were able to drive through the mountains and see the white tailed deer, went to the Art Studio where she displayed her artwork and we were even able to take her to Roanoke to my sister in laws wedding and to the Biltmore House. At the Biltmore we could hardly keep up with her. She had so much energy and was on the go! We also enjoyed just visiting. The last time we saw her we knew she needed to make a change. Gary Linkous was instrumental in helping her and giving her the most quality care. I am so grateful for him being there for her. She deserved to be well taken care of. In the midst of the most devastating childhood she was able to make the best of her life. I believe the Lord had favor upon her. Proverbs 3: 6 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3: 4-6 He was evident in her life and all she was able to accomplish. Rest in peace Aunt Marie and glory in seeing your family again.

Fran Faatz - January 15, 2018 at 01:49 PM

JR

Dr. Zarins was my childhood dentist in the late 1960's. Today my current dentist was to do a crown. When he removed the old filling that was put in 53 years ago by Dr. Zarins, he said it was some the best dental work he had ever seen. Because of the way she did her work, no crown was necessary and he just replaced the filling. I didn't know how lucky I was to have her as my dentist. Thank you Dr. Zarins.

James Tillman Riddle - April 28, 2021 at 08:52 AM