



Anita Bonkowski

January 4, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Anita Bonkowski, 90, of 1306 Evergreen Dr., Iron Mountain, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital, after a lengthy, courageous battle with cancer. She was an inspiration to her family and friends on how important attitude is when facing cancer.

She was born on April 28, 1918, in Oconto Falls, Wis., the daughter of the late Frank and Josephine (LaDuron) Rumpf.

Anita's family moved to Kingsford in the 1920s. After graduation from Kingsford High School in 1936, she attended Dundon's Business School. She moved to Chicago and attended the Chicago Teachers College. She became the executive secretary at Englestein Realty for many years before retiring.

Anita married Zygmund Bonkowski on Sept. 7, 1963, at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. After retirement, they moved to Appleton, Wis., for several years before moving to Iron Mountain to be near family.

Anita was a loving aunt and friend to her many nieces and nephews. She enjoyed visits and conversations about family and current world events. She was a member of St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Zygmund; her nieces, Patricia

Hyland, Norma (Joseph) Deyaert, Janet Casanova, Beverly Winters, Claudette (Gerald) Tourville, Karen Wesoloski, Sister Mary Margaret, Darlene Rumpf, and Jill Champion, Bernadette Rumpf, and nephews, Lloyd (Marcia) Peterson, Eugene (Christine) Peterson, Pete (Sandy) Kennedy, Bob (Ina) Rumpf, Richard Rumpf, Thomas (Sherry) Witt, Gerald, David, and James Rumpf; and sisters-in-law, Genevieve Rumpf and Marion Rumpf along with several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Grace (Lloyd) Peterson, Jeanette (Ervin) Witt, and Ida (Ken) Kennedy, and five brothers, Francis (Genevieve) Rumpf, Eugene (Edith) Rumpf, Leo (Marion) Rumpf, Thomas (Claire) Rumpf, and Gerald (Frances) Rumpf.

A private family funeral will be held on Wednesday at St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Her nephews will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet at 1401 Carpenter Ave. Iron Mountain, Mich. 49801.

Condolences to the family of Anita Bonkowski may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

BP

“ Dear Zig, Honestly it seems like just yesterday we lived right across the road from you and Anita in Iron Mountain. Anita was an absolute gem, she was a tough cookie who led a long life. I remember when you two used to babysit me when I was little and Anita always offered me food, constantly worried that I'd be hungry. She treated me a lot like my grandma does, and I loved her for that. Who wouldn't love have cool grandparents like you guys living right across the street? I will always cherish my memories of Anita and I am sure that she's up in heaven right now, watching over us all. My prayers are with you, Brady

Brady Plunger - January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Dear Zig, I have always thought of you and Anita like another pair of grandparents, you were both always so kind and generous to me. I will miss Anita like my own grandmother and I will cherish her memory. But we can both take comfort in the certainty that Anita was such a wonderful and faithful woman that she's up there with the Angels looking down on us already. Now she's the one who is helping take care of us! God bless and my love, Bryan

Bryan Plunger - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Dear Zig-

I'm sorry to hear that Anita has passed on, but I'm sure I don't have to tell you that she is one of those women whose spirit will always be a part of me and of my family. She was an inspiration in so many ways, and I have so many wonderful memories of her to keep her close in my heart.

*My love and deepest sympathy,
Beth*

Beth Plunger - January 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM