



Bella Turk

July 17, 1907 - June 5, 2008

KINGSFORD - Bella Turk, 100, a well-known Kingsford resident, peacefully passed away Thursday, June 5, 2008, at Manor Care in Kingsford.

She was born July 17, 1907, in Iron Mountain, one of 12 children of the late John and Jenny Goulette. Bella graduated from high school in 1926. She excelled in basketball and skating. She graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in 1930, earning a bachelor of arts degree in French, English, and history. She began teaching in Hermansville and joined the Breitung Township School District where she taught for 34 years. During her tenure at Kingsford, she was Dean of Girls for 12 years and acclaimed as one of the best and most respected teachers of KHS. Bella retired in 1972. She was proud of all of her students and always remembered them by name. She was thrilled that the students always invited her back to their class reunions as an honored guest.

On July 5, 1934, Bella married John D. Turk. They made the most of every day together during their 54 years of marriage. Their secret to a happy marriage was hard work, dedication, and prayer. They enjoyed their retirement by spending time together at camp (they were quite the turkey hunting team!), and planting their garden each summer. John preceded her in death on May 3, 1990.

Bella's rewards were found in her countless friends and former students. She

loved when friends visited her and especially enjoyed her birthdays when she would receive an abundance of birthday cards, flowers, and visitors. She also prided herself in attending daily Mass and saying her rosary. Bella was a prime example of an exemplary Christian woman. Everyone that knew her loved her. Her positive attitude and smile will be greatly missed. Bella was a member of the American Martyrs Catholic Church and volunteered in the community for many years. She worked for the Probate Court under the Honorable Judge John D. Payant, St. Vincent de Paul, the Red Cross, and also helped in the family business at Twin City Cleaners.

She is survived by a son, Eugene (Gwenyth) Turk of Chandler, Ariz.; a daughter, Alice Tuomela of Iron Mountain; six grandchildren, William Tuomela of Colorado Springs, Colo., Connie (Gary) Jacobson of Breitung Township, Robert (Mary) Tuomela of Breitung Township, Sherry (Roger) Simon of Chandler, Mark Turk of Boulder, Colo., and Jay (Janet) Turk of Phoenix, Ariz.; eight great-grandchildren, Mallory and Taylor Jacobson, Krista and Eric Tuomela; Cory and Jordan Simon, and Ashleigh and Alison Turk; one great-great grandson, Jacob; special nephew, Art (Shirley) Viens; special niece, Kathy (William) Counter; and many nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

Besides her husband and parents, Bella was preceded in death by her 11 siblings, John Goulette, Eva Elmer, Hector Goulette, Virginia Valenti, Albina Viens, Delore "Chut" Goulette, Henry Goulette, James Goulette, Margaret La Fave, George Goulette, and Arthur Goulette; and a son-in-law, Gerald Tuomela on Jan. 20, 2008.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at American Martyrs Catholic Church.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the church. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in her memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Bella Turk online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

TD

“ I learned of Mrs. Turk's passing while at my class reunion this weekend. She was my French teacher in 1965-66. I remember her as a wonderful, compassionate, elegant, lady who inspired and provided a role model that is so often missing today. She will be missed by many.
Terry Duval

Terry Duval - July 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Dear Alice and family.
I have been out of town and just arrived home on Monday too late to attend the service or to contact you.
Your mother was the icon of Ford Addition and also left an indelible mark on any who were fortunate enough to get to know her as the fine lady she was!
I truly enjoyed her smiling face when I went to Manorcare this past several months and shared a few words every evening that I was there at her dining, when I was there with my dad.
Her death leaves a void in the lives of many!
You are in my prayers and thoughts.
I am deeply saddened.
Sincerely, Cheryl and children

Cheryl Wender-Menghini - June 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Alice and family,
My condolences to you and your entire family. It was a pleasure to be able to take care of such a wonderful lady. Her smiles and hugs will be with me forever.

Amanda (Nurse at Manorcare) - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ My condolences to the family of Mrs. Bella Turk. She was a wonderful example and caring counselor to the girls she mentored as Dean of Girls at KHS. May she rest in peace.

Gail Thorsen

KHS 1965

Gail Thorsen - June 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Dear Mrs. Turk was certainly a greatly respected & beloved dean of girls such as I @ KHS with her genuine warmth, encouragement & wholesomeness! It was also a delight to live next door to your family Alice in my early adult years. There is a definite resemblance to your dear mother in those same qualities. God bless & comfort you in your loss as He has in mine!

Becky (Gagnon) LaCourt-Robert - June 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ She was a wonderful woman and will be missed by many. I had her in high school and she treated all with kindness and respect.

Pam - June 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *The Heavens rejoice! One of God's best has taken her place by His side. "Mrs. Turk" is a Kingsford High School icon. Those of us who came under her tutelage were much the better for it. Her attendance at our class reunions was always a hi-lite. We get together every five years and her attendance at these was better than most of us! To all of her family, "Thank you for sharing her with us", her former students at KHS. Especially the Class of 64'*

Don "Rock" Mannigel - June 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *May the good Lord bless her and keep her. A very special teacher and person. Class of 1959.*

Bonnie Davis Chirpka - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *My sympathy to all of the family, especially to Alice and her children. Bella was a great person to know and I enjoyed my visits with her at retired KHS faculty events. I am glad that I stopped by to visit her at Manor Care in March when our mission team was delivering Easter baskets to our church members.*

Marilyn Phillips - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange. My memories of Mrs. Turk are wonderful. She was very important to me in high school, (1958 - 1962.*

Donna Carlson Gunter - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *My sympathy especially to Eugene and Alice on the death of your wonderful mother and dear friend of my mother and family. It was my pleasure and honor to know your mother and she always made me feel good whenever she recognised me while attending Mass at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford Heights. May your mother now rest in the peace of the Lord and I will be offering a special Mass for her tomorrow. May the Lord bless you and give you His Peace. Fr. John F. Samsa, Capuchin.*

Fr. John F. Samsa - June 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM