



Chris Hihnala

December 24, 1950 - March 8, 2026

Christine Lee Hihnala, age 75, of Alger, passed away on March 8, 2026. She was born on December 24, 1950 in Detroit to Anthony and Margaret Prentke.

Chris was born and raised in Berkley, Michigan, where she developed the strong sense of community and loyalty that would guide her throughout her life. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Royal Oak and soon began building a life centered on hard work, family, and friendship.

Chris began her working life at the lunch counter at Kresge in Royal Oak, where her friendly smile and warm personality made her a favorite among customers. She later worked for the City of Berkley before beginning a 30-year career with General Motors in a variety of roles, including as an executive assistant. Following her retirement from GM, Chris continued to stay active and involved, working in the City Clerk's office for the City of Royal Oak.

She also spent many years at VFW Acorn Post 1669 in Royal Oak, where she served as both a barmaid and bookkeeper. A proud auxiliary member for more than 55 years, Chris formed lasting friendships there and remained devoted to the post and its members.

Above all else, Chris was devoted to her family and friends. Her husband, children, grandchildren, and loved ones were the center of her life. She found

joy in caring for others—stopping by to visit, making phone calls, or sending thoughtful get-well cards to let people know they were in her thoughts. Those simple acts of kindness were her true hobbies and the way she showed love.

Chris will be remembered for her generous spirit, her loyalty to those she loved, and the countless small ways she brightened the lives of everyone around her. Her presence will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Chris will be remembered as the beloved wife of the late Byron. Loving mother of Robert (fiancée Shannon Rowekamp) Brindley and Angela Witherow, stepmother of Becky (fiancé Scott Patterson) Stieg and the late Jason Hihnala, and mother-in-law of the late Michelle Brindley. Proud grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of many. Dear sister of Patricia Stoppello, Larry (Collette) Prentke, Elaine (Mickey) Shady, and Carol Kosnik.

Visitation for Chris will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 12 – 4 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (four blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak.

If you would like to make a contribution in memory of Chris, please consider a memorial contribution to VFW Acorn Post 1669 in Royal Oak.

Please share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **14**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Constance Fekete planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chris Hihnala.

Constance Fekete - March 14 at 03:11 AM

GS

“ Georgina S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chris Hihnala.

Georgina S. - March 13 at 03:50 PM

LK

“ Love, Kathy purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Chris Hihnala.



Love, Kathy - March 13 at 12:29 PM

DF

“ Debbie, mike, Jacob and family. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Chris Hihnala.



Debbie, mike, Jacob and family. - March 12 at 04:28 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chris Hihnala.



March 12 at 11:13 AM



“ Kris was a amazing aunt she was their for me thought my life anytime I needed to talk she be thier for me to talk with.Especially after losing my parents, she was a shinning light in some of my draker days and I will always remember her for that, such a sweet kinda loving lady who did tell it like it was when you needed her to, she will be missed dearly and will always be remember in my family, although I can make the trip from ga to Michigan to support my family just know our prayers are with you all, vo, myself and the twins love you all and we will lite a candle in her honor, resting peace aunt k and as always you are a angle looking down on us.



Candy Elledge - March 11 at 04:11 PM



“ Chris, Patti, Linda and I worked at Kresge during our high school days. We had so much fun. We get together once a year and had lunch and would reminisce. She will be missed. Chris will be with her Heavenly family now and reunited with Jesus and her husband. We will miss her.

Alice Goldade - March 11 at 02:20 PM

HC

“ Harriette, Monty, Pam and Cheryl purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Chris Hihnala.



Harriette, Monty, Pam and Cheryl - March 11 at 01:24 PM

SH

“ Steve Hawald purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Chris Hihnala.



Steve Hawald - March 11 at 11:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Chris Hihnala.

March 11 at 11:05 AM

JS

“ Jim Smith purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Chris Hihnala.



Jim Smith - March 11 at 09:52 AM

JS

“ Jim Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chris Hihnala.

Jim Smith - March 11 at 09:52 AM

JS

“ I will miss Christine's weekly visits by text. My heart is with you in this time of sorrow.
Jim Smith

Jim Smith - March 11 at 09:47 AM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Chris Hihnala.



March 10 at 10:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Chris Hihnala.

March 10 at 10:03 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chris Hihnala.



March 10 at 08:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Chris Hihnala.

March 10 at 08:43 PM