



## Clara Sue Valeck

December 27, 1941 - January 24, 2023

Clara Sue Valeck (nee Bradley), of Shelby Township, Michigan, passed away on January 24, 2023 at the age of 81. Clara was the sweetheart and best friend of Larry for 61 years, and loving wife for 57 of those years; the cherished mom and guiding light of Paul (Tonia) and David (Jennifer); the adored grandma of Willem, Emeline, Elin, and Walker; the dear oldest sister of the late John Bradley (the late Judy), Hannah Marter (the late Harold), the late Kathy Wilson (the late Joe), Tim Bradley (Debbie), the late Charles Bradley (Marylin), Mary White (Larry), and Joe Bradley; and the beloved sister-in-law of the late Jerry Valeck (Patty), and Karen Valeck. She is also survived by countless nieces, nephews, and cousins, too numerous to name, but each of whom were very special to her. Clara was predeceased by her parents, John and Nancy Bradley, and her parents-in-law, Paul and Letha Valeck.

Clara was born in Norfolk, Virginia and grew up in Marine City, Michigan, attending Holy Cross High School. She met Larry at an A&W drive-in restaurant in 1961 and maintained a love of both Larry and root beer until her last days; one of her last requests was for a root beer float, which she shared with Larry and her sons from her hospital bed. For the last 48 years, she lived in the same house in Shelby Township, where she devoted her life to raising her loving family.

Clara loved gardening in her yard; going to casinos; hosting Camp G&G for

her grandkids in the summers; making yearly pilgrimages to Grandin and Elsinore, Missouri to visit her siblings; traveling several times a year to Washington, DC and Atlanta, Georgia to visit her sons' families; keeping up with family via Facebook; dancing whenever given the chance; bargain hunting; watching birds in her front yard from her porch, and ducks and geese in the lake from her back deck; and in later years, spending several weeks in the winter in southwest Florida. Through it all, Larry was her constant companion.

A wall flower or morning person, Clara was not. She loved visiting with people, always told it straight, rarely acted her age, and often stayed up later than is reasonable to watch old movies. What she was in spades was generous - with her time, love, and advice. The oldest child of eight, she learned her skill in trade - caregiving - early. She always put the needs of others ahead of her own, always tried to do as best she could with what she had, and always gave yet never asked. Clara was, by all measures, one of a kind, and she made the lives of all she encountered brighter. She will be deeply and forever missed.

Clara's family will receive all who knew her for visitation on Friday, January 27, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 blocks East of Van Dyke), Utica. Visitation will continue Saturday, January 28, from 10:30 a.m. until the time of her funeral at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, Clinton Township. Please share a memory with her family at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cadillac Memorial Gardens East Cemetery

38425 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Visitation

JAN 28. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Service

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JAN 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 27, 2023 at 12:00 PM

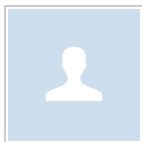


“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 26, 2023 at 11:59 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 26, 2023 at 11:53 PM



“ *Larry, Paul, Dave and families. We sure were saddened to hear of Clara's passing. We wish we could be present for her services. We will cherish our memories of her over the years. Sending love for the difficult days ahead.*  
*The Rauh Family*

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**Marilyn Rauh** - January 26, 2023 at 10:11 PM

K(

“ Aunt Clara was always there when my dad got sick, she would bring food to him while he was in the hospital. They had to bring him His own private fridge to keep all the stuff she would bring to try to get him to eat. Bless her heart!! I hope they are celebrating their reunion up there in heaven, and hope they remember how much they are missed here on Earth. Tell my mom & dad I miss them 🥺



Kelly Mead (Bradley) - January 26, 2023 at 06:06 PM

KG

My cousin Clara was a beautiful soul. Always a smile and putting others first. She never forgot to visit my parents whenever she was in the area. They enjoyed any news in the family as she kept in touch with so many family members near and far There's a special place in heaven for Clara. Say hi to Henry and Geraldine when you see them! ❤️❤️

Karen Bradley Gerhard - January 26, 2023 at 09:07 PM

KS

“ Kevin & Mary Sting purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.



Kevin & Mary Sting - January 26, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.



January 26, 2023 at 05:36 PM

RS

“ Russ and Nannette Smith purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.



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**Russ and Nannette Smith** - January 26, 2023 at 04:20 PM

E(

“ One of my favorite memories is when Aunt Clara and the family came to visit Hannah (nana) and our family in Algonac. Willem and nana were going back and forth as they were loading up to leave saying “thank you!.. no, thank YOU!!” All of us got “the shutters” aka hysterical laughter.... Willem must’ve been two or three. I was maybe 15? To this day we still say, “thank you!!... no thank YOU!!” And have a good laugh.

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**Emily Bonk (McCullough)** - January 26, 2023 at 03:43 PM

SV

“ 3 files added to the album hello



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**Steve Valeck** - January 26, 2023 at 03:37 PM

SV

“ A good memory I have of Aunt Clara would be during my wedding. As the groom it was my job to get everyone up on the dance floor and get everyone moving and having fun. I don't believe Clara sat done for more then 20 minutes during the entire reception. She was having so much fun. She danced with at least 20 different people, smiling nonstop throughout the entire time. When I asked her if she had fun she said top three weddings she's ever been too. Not going to lie, that was before her son Paul got married so ours probably dropped down to 4th.



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**Steve Valeck** - January 26, 2023 at 03:31 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.



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January 26, 2023 at 02:16 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.



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January 26, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 26, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 26, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Clara Sue Valeck.*



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January 25, 2023 at 09:41 PM