



## Gladys M. Rorick

April 26, 1936 - January 10, 2007

RORICK, Gladys M. age 70, January 10, 2007. Loving Mom of Cathy Messana, Dodi Bill Monahan, Colleen Brian King, and Maureen Craig Collier. Grandmother of 5. Sister of Anita Chmielewski, Theresa Daniot, and William Kaleto. Family will receive friends at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road 3 blks east of VanDyke Utica, Saturday 1-9pm. Contributions appreciated to National Kidney Foundation.[www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ Thank you, mom, for all you've taught me. But most of all, thank you for the strength and courage you imparted. I know I can go on. I know that, even with so many changes, life goes on. Thanks to you, I can do that. I know you were tired, mom. I know you'd been missing your own mother for quite some time too. I hope you are in a place where you two can sit around a table and talk, play Yahtzee, share laughter and the family stories. Watch over us mom. Help us to remember the lessons you taught us, the love you gave so freely and the laughter that has healed most of our pain over the years. My proudest moments are when people tell me that I am so much like you. I love you, mom. I miss you so...

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**Cathy** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ My sister, Gladys, was a modest woman of great accomplishment. The first of these is four beautiful women of amazing strength, character, love, kindness and compassion. I remember when the girls were small and Gladys, after a week of hard work, would take them on excursions--to Belle Isle, amusement parks, rides to Canada, museums--various places. She told me she wanted to expose them to as much of the pleasures of the world as she could. She loved them and gave them every opportunity she could, but she also was a loving disciplinarian. If you knew Gladys at all, you know she would not take crap from anyone--least of all her kids! She was a determined, fierce, generous and loving mother whose own good character and kineness live on in her daughters and grandchildren. These women and their children are the stars in her crown and the joy of my life. Gladys' love of family, although not an accomplishment, was a wide streat in her personality and is something she has passed on to her girls. We all knew we could count on her. She was there with her strength whenever you needed her. Gladys didn't sat much but her presence in times of crisis was something you could lean on until you caught your breath. She was always there for me, personally, and for my son who loved her like he loved no one else. The strength and compassion of the Rorick women got me through most of the rough periods of my life...because we are family and I know I can count on them. Gladys was a also a very hard worker. She went to college in her 40s and earned a Bachelor's Degree. She worked most of her life for two companies, Chrysler and Volkswagen. These jobs were not always a love/love relationship but she was a loyal employee and always did her best. Her work ethic carried into her retirement when she filled her life with hoppies that were creative and interesting...wood carving, humanities classes and, of course, the casinos. She loved those casinos and every once in a while she would go off on little excursions with Colleen, her daughter, or Jackie, her niece, or one of her friends. She never boasted if she won nor complained if she lost. In fact, she never complained! She was a woman who took life's blows and, even when she was knocked down, got up and continued to do her best without whining

*or recrimination. She wasn't perfect but whining and self pity were very foreign to her. About those imperfections--she could be infuriating to talk to sometimes. I'd call and ask "what's new?" and she'd say "nothing much." For a while I accepted that, but in later conversations with one of the girls I'd find out that she'd won at the casino or one of the grandchildren was sick, or there was some other tidbit of family gossip that she hadn't passed on. Her favorite comment to me was "I don't like to gossip and I don't ask questions." Her independence was legendary. As a small example she always wanted to be the driver and not the passenger--especially if I wanted to drive. She thought she was a better driver than most and certainly better than me. She went so far as to tell a friend of mine that I was a lousey driver in response to his question. This is something he holds over me to this day..."even your sister thinks you are a bad driver" he will say. And she was brave. Her bravery was quiet and constant. She handled everything, good and bad, with courage and determination that often amazed me. Gladys wasn't perfect but she was my hero and I love her. She will always be an inspiration to me. Oh, and one more thing...I want to thank her grandchildren who, in the midst of their own sorrow and grief yesterday, took great care of the adults they love...so much like their grandmother who loved them unconditionally.*

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**Anita Chmielewski** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *hello beautiful... my mom...my friend...my travel companion.....my mentor....my confidante.... .....forever in my thoughts....foever in my heart i love you mom*

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**Colleen King** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Gladys was a joy to know and work with. We always worked hard but always had time to catch up on each others lifes.*

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**Ed Brubaker** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Anyone who knows me knows how much Mom means to me. In the beginning she was my teacher. She taught me right from wrong, but more than that she taught me to be a good person; not to judge people and to be accepting of everyone around me. Later she became my mentor and friend. She taught me to be assertive, stubborn and strong. Mom taught me how to listen, how to be patient, but mostly how to love. She taught me to love with my whole heart, as she loved me; not because of my strengths but in spite of all my many faults. She was my Matron of Honor at my wedding, because you always ask your best friend; and that is what she was. I will never forget her easy smile, the way it felt to hold her hand when one of us was under stress, her soft kiss good night or the way it felt to be really loved. Mom, I love you... always.

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**dodi** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ To Gladys...you were such a wonderful friend, a supportive and loving co-worker but most importantly, you were my second mom. I thank God for all the years that I had to get to know you. We had so much fun working together, laughing, sharing, caring.. But what is most special about you is that you took the time out of a very busy life and you included me in it...you included me in your family...I will never forget you, Gladys. You will live on through all of us who love you. Your loving friend, Carole

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**Carole Lyons** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM