



## Maria Maggiorino

December 8, 1934 - February 6, 2021

Maria Maggiorino, Age 86, resident of Macomb Township, and formerly of Warren.

passed away on Saturday, February 6, 2021, in Clinton Township, Michigan. born December 8, 1934, in Caripito, Venezuela.

She was the matriarch of our family and will be deeply missed. She was truly a unique, wonderful person who overcame so much in her lifetime with a positive "don't give up" attitude. She was tough and feisty yet so incredibly sweet and beautiful. Our Dad (Pa) moved from Italy to Venezuela where he met our mother. Mom and Dad along with our sister Laura Lenk move to the United States for a better life but Mom didn't like it. Mom missed her family and took Laura for a visit. Her Dad, Senior Zapata, told Mom she should return to the U.S. with Laura and Del to be with her husband and embrace a new life. She returned and learned to speak Italian so she could speak with our Dad's family and friends. She had our sister Linda Vereeke and me and convinced our Dad to buy a house in Warren rather than continue to rent a flat in Detroit. We moved to that house where she lived for 40 years until 2002 when she bought a condo, in Macomb. Our Dad and Mom spoke Spanish and Italian and we responded in English. And soon they too spoke English. Mom then worked on obtaining her driver's license which was important for her to be an independent, American woman.

Our brother Tony was born and passed away 8 months later. Approximately 2

and a half years later our Dad passed away from lung cancer at the age of 42. Mom was widowed at 36 years old with 4 children (15 and under) without life insurance or savings. 2 weeks later she got her first U.S. job working at our family doctors office. This led to a career in the medical field where she eventually worked for Beaumont Hospital for 30+ years before retiring. At Beaumont, she met her "work" family and remained close with those friends. Many, many laughs and parties with this group! During those years she has several surgeries and also battled breast cancer always pushing forward with a positive attitude. She was determined to become an American citizen. She and Del attended classes and became naturalized citizens together. She was proud of this accomplishment. She always told us we lived in the greatest county in the world. She also told us there wasn't anything we couldn't do or be if we put in the effort. Just after retiring, Mom was in a terrible accident in 2001 and we were lucky she survived. She was in the hospital for months with many broken and shattered bones on her left side of her body. Her pelvis was broken in 3 places along with a shattered wrist which delayed her rehab and came home in a wheelchair. Doctors weren't sure she would ever walk again but she proved them wrong with her determination and positive thinking. She resumed her life and met a new group of friends during rehabilitation at the Warren Pool. Mom brought us up to be respectful to everyone we met regardless of race, color, nationality or religion. She told us to treat people as you would like to be treated and she led by example. Mom brought our Grandma (Abuela) here to visit several times so we could get to know her. She spoke to us like adults sharing her philosophies on life and love. She loved us and we loved her! So grateful to Mom for allowing us the honor to know her mother, sisters, brothers and extended family. We remember the times when the family visited and how much dancing and laughter we shared. We cherish those memories!.

There was always a meal to be had for Mom loved to cook. Loved to show anyone how to make her Venezuelan and Italian dishes. She was not only

Mom to us but she took everyone we knew and loved into her home and heart as additional "children". She loved to hang out with friends and had groups of them everywhere. They exercised, lunched, played cards, travelled and shopped. My mom loved to go to garage sales and shared that love with all of us and her grandkids. She was a great listener and would provide sound advice. We all spoke to her almost every single day sometimes multiple times a day. You may not be aware that my Mom had dementia that affected her these last 3 years. This was the hardest challenge she had as this fiercely independent, strong woman lost the ability to do it on her own. Many people may have wondered why she didn't call them or return calls and it was because she either didn't remember they had called to eventually being unable to dial the phone without assistance. We enrolled her in senior classes and eventually assisted living so she could remain somewhat independent. Once again she made new friends and encouraged them to participate, especially getting them to dance.

There wasn't a time we needed her that she wasn't by our side supporting our family. She was Mom and Dad...Grandma and Grampa...and was so proud of her family. 2 weeks ago Mom fell and broke her hip and had surgery to replace it. Initially thinking she would rehab again and get back up and going as she always did. However, the pain along with advanced dementia made it hard for her to move. We all took turns being with her day and night including the grandkids. The staff at Henry Ford unit 43 were outstanding. So much compassion and care not only for Mom and us... We will be forever grateful to those nurses doctors and staff. We know she didn't want to leave us. We didn't want her to leave but find some comfort that she is no longer suffering and at peace. She was the most incredible person we've ever known. She made us believe that anything was possible. So grateful for FaceBook which has allowed us to remain close to Mom's family in Venezuela. She loved our video calls on Messenger and was amazed at the technology that would allow

her to see her sisters and talk as if they were right in the same room together. We appreciate our Maggiorino family for their love and support. We know how much you loved her. (Love you guys!) To the rest of our extended families, friends and employers...we thank you for all the prayers and support. Can't imagine not hearing her voice again. We are going to miss our Mamacita! Love you so!

Beloved wife of the late Uriso Maggiorino.

Loving mother of Laura Lenk, Edelis "Del" (Randy) Stukel, Linda Vereeke, Shirley (Ken) Reifert, and the late Antonio Maggiorino.

Proud grandmother of Leah Lenk, Noah Lenk, Amanda Stukel, Jacob Hoyt, Devin Stukel, Ian Reifert, and Lauren Reifert.

Dear great-grandmother of Naomi, and Noah Jr..

Dear Sister of Ana Palacios Hernandez, Elba Zapata Hernandez, Rosa Zapata Hernandez, Doris Zapata Hernandez, Alfredo Zapata Hernandez, Gladys Zapata Hernandez, Wilma Zapata Hernandez, and the late Humberto Zapata Hernandez..

Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and family around the world.

\*\*Due to COVID-19, and in accordance with CDC recommendations and the Governor's Executive Orders, please be advised that the funeral home is limited to 25 people in the visitation/service room at any given time, please be mindful of your time at the funeral home as there may be others that may be waiting to pay their respects. Also, masks are required to enter the building

Visitation at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica Tuesday, February 9, from 2 pm until of funeral service 7 pm, the funeral services will be live-streamed, a link will be posted to the website prior to the start of the services.

Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens East Cemetery Clinton Township,

Michigan.

Please share a memory 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

FEB 9. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

FEB 9. 7:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Maria Maggiorino*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - February 09, 2021 at 05:20 PM

**MB**

*Maria was such a wonderful lady, always so positive and full of enthusiasm. I really loved her.*

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**Michele Borchak** - February 09, 2021 at 07:42 PM

**SM**

*Beautiful service for a beautiful lady.*

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**Sheila Morris** - February 10, 2021 at 08:49 AM

**EE**

*Maria was such a great lady! What a nice tribute to her! Hugs to all of you!!!!*

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**Elaine Ess** - February 10, 2021 at 04:52 PM

**MB**

*Maria was always very pleasant and outgoing ,met at he aqua class, enjoyed food and wonderful person !!*

*Mary & Mel Blanda*

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**mary blanda** - February 13, 2021 at 01:35 PM



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Maria Maggiorino*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - February 08, 2021 at 09:22 PM

CT

“ *Our deepest sympathies go out to all of you. She was a kind and loving lady. Bruno and Carolyn Tavolieri*

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**carolyn tavolieri** - February 13, 2021 at 07:07 PM



“ *I was so saddened to hear of Maria's passing but we all know she is with her husband and son where God has planned for her to be. The pastor did a wonderful sermon for one that did not know Maria, it was so real and true as portrayed from her children. It has been many years since I last saw Maria where we worked together at Beaumont. She was one special lady and we had many times of wonderful laughter with Maria usually starting it with something. She was always a instant friend to you when you would first meet her and that would be that way forever. She will be truly missed by her dear family and all the friends from her past and present life. Every person should have the same love for life that Maria had the world would be a much better place for us all. God bless Maria's family and cherish the wonderful memories which you have many to hold on to.*

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**Marge Degraw** - February 10, 2021 at 05:22 PM

PW

“ *Maria was a very special person and I will never forget her. She was one of a kind. I loved her like she was my own mother. May this lovely lady rest in peace.*

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**peace. Wincenciak** - February 09, 2021 at 05:09 PM

ES

“ *Edward and Judy Smalling purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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**Edward and Judy Smalling** - February 09, 2021 at 12:36 PM

MA

“ *To shirley and your sisters , I just wanted to say I'm deeply sorry to here about your mother's passing. Sending our heartfelt sympathies to you and all your families. Your Mother was a beautiful lady, very sweet and punky she will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. I had met her thur my aunt Antonette , she was always at my aunts house for family gatherings back in the day when we were all little kids . You all will be in my prayers and my thoughts sending our love too you all , your mom will be your guiding light and angel shinning down on you all . With my deepest sympathy and condolences , marisa torzy*

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**marisa** - February 09, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 09, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 09, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 09, 2021 at 09:31 AM

EM

“ Heartfelt condolences to our dear Maggiorino Cuzzins and family of - Laura-Del-Linda and Shirley. Know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. I am heartbroken over the loss of your Mom (Our Tia). We always always had such fun - wonderful time together , Playing cards , playing our signature game Left-right-center- dancing, telling jokes, reminiscing stories, and of course our potlucks together.. Our future family gathers will be different with one of our Family Matriarch empty chair.. To my cousins - Laura,Del,Linda and Shirley . Our lifelong friends we pray for strength, courage and love to help you all through this difficult loss. Tia has left a scar in our hearts. Que Dios le tenga en la Gloria.. RIP - Tia - Love Lisa..



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**Elizabeth Maggiorino** - February 09, 2021 at 08:59 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.



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February 09, 2021 at 08:32 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.



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February 09, 2021 at 07:36 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 07:50 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maria Maggiorino.*



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February 08, 2021 at 01:51 PM