



Jane T. Kulpinski

August 27, 1922 - June 5, 2018

Jane T. Kulpinski was born in Detroit Michigan on August, 27, 1922 to Joseph and Josephine Zontek, being the second of 3 siblings, Eugene and Leonard. She attended elementary school at St. Hyacinth Parish, and then at girl's Catholic Central high School. Training at Paris-based Sapho Academy of Design followed by a career of dress design. Her love of teaching emerged, resulting in her graduation from Eastern Michigan (BS-1966) and Michigan State University (MA-1968) she started her teaching career at U of M's Roosevelt Experimental School and then Ypsilanti High School for more than 25 years as a supervising teacher.

Jane participated in a grant from the education department of the State to revise teaching curriculum, which is currently used.

Jane was an enthusiastic volunteer, active in her church as a council member and very active in parish activities. She was one of 16 original members of the organization now called Learning in Retirement, a service organization, now composed of several hundred active members.

Jane loved to travel. She visited 21 countries in her journeys abroad collecting teaching materials. Other activities included oil painting, sewing and writing. She was a long-time member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Professional Teaching Society and was awarded the Lifetime Service Award. Her active life continued after retirement.

Jane was predeceased by her husband, John Kulpinski, and her brother, Eugene. She is survived by her beloved brother, Leonard Zontek, nephew Kenneth Zontek, and niece Jacqueline Milobowski.

Cemetery

Mount Olivet Cemetery

17100 Van Dyke St

Detroit, MI, 48201

Events

JUN **Memorial Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

12

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48104

JUN **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

12

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48104

Comments



“ Hello,
My name is Linda M. (I will not include my last name). I was a student of Mrs. Kulpinski. I was in a number of her Home Economics classes at Ypsilanti High School. Sorry to hear of her passing. She was a wonderful person and a gifted seamstress. She taught me how to sew better and I will never forget her. She had a kind and generous spirit and a beautiful heart. She taught me how to make "bound button holes".

Not many people know what I am talking about, but someone who sews will know. She taught me how to make them and every time I look at a store bought garment, I look for them. I don't see them on women's clothing, but sometimes I see them on men's sports jackets. When I see them, I think of her.

At my senior high school awards program I received the highest honor they could give a student in home economics. Mrs. Kulpinski presented me with that award. I will never forget her and the things I learned from her.

One thing she always told her students, that her husband has never, never ever seen her in rollers. Her students could not quite figure that out, but we believed her. She told us she makes everything, I mean everything she wore. We believed her, because she was a very gifted teacher and seamstress,

Mrs. Kulpinski was a kind and generous teacher. My heart is sadden at her passing, but I know I will see her again in heaven. When we do, we will make 'bound button holes' together again.

Mrs. Kulpinski, missing you, but I will see you again.

Sadly,
Linda M. - Ypsilanti High School, Class of 1974

linda - June 13, 2018 at 05:24 PM



“ I forgot, I too was a member of Future Homemakers of America. Thanks for reminding me cuz.

linda - June 13, 2018 at 05:29 PM



“ I met Mrs. Kulpinski as a fresh-off-the-boat immigrant in 1983, when it was not popular to be an immigrant, albeit a legal one. She was my sewing teacher for a year, and my friend for 35 years. Her memory and her legacy will live on in our family. She knew all of our children by name and she asked specifically about each one just about every time we talked. She was the most proper, polite, and personable woman God has graced my life with. I will always miss her :-)

May God comfort her family and all of her friends.

Dorina

Dorina - June 12, 2018 at 06:55 PM



“ Mrs. Kulpinski was a very important role model for me at Roosevelt HS. In fact, I chose to become a Home Economics teacher because her grace, dignity, and knowledge inspired me so greatly. It was wonderful to see her at the RHS reunion several years ago, and I got to thank her in person for the wonderful example she set as a teacher and a successful, professional woman. Although I'm glad to know that she lived a long life, the world will be a sadder place without her here.

Pamela Swack Ledoux - June 10, 2018 at 08:12 PM



“ Mrs. Kulpinski was my high school teacher at Ypsilanti High School. She was also over the Future Homemakers of America and she was an excellent teacher. I know she liked her students. She took my twin sister and I out to dinner and to Detroit to find a particular kind of fabric for a dress that I was sewing. She took the FHofA on the Boblo boat on a field trip where we encountered a prejudice woman that told her that it was people like her that messed up the world because all of the girls in the club was African American, well Mrs. K. had few choice words for that lady and promptly walked off to report the lady. This was in the 70's. I loved and respected Mrs. Kulpinski.

Carolyn A German - June 10, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ Jane embraced life with grace and compassion. I was fortunate to have such a friend and colleague beginning during our earliest years at Ypsilanti High School and extending beyond retirement.

Nancy Goff

Nancy Goff - June 09, 2018 at 12:47 PM



“ Beth Mikolajski Hawkinson lit a candle in memory of Jane T. Kulpinski



Beth Mikolajski Hawkinson - June 08, 2018 at 11:43 PM



“ She was my Great Aunt. I remember her sketching a wedding dress for me when I was very young. She was beautiful.

Beth Mikolajski Hawkinson - June 08, 2018 at 11:46 PM



“ Mrs. Kulpinski was my high school home economics teacher at Roosevelt High in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She was an inspiration to me then, especially in sewing. An accomplished fashion designer, she created wedding gowns for many brides - including some of Detroit's most well known citizens. I had the pleasure of reconnecting with her ten years ago. Since then, she continued to be a role-model in my life. I saw her move through her eighties into her nineties with grace, humor, and dignity. I can only hope as the years pass, I can age as beautifully as she. I am heartened she lived a long and full life, but I will miss our pleasant times together.

Alice Ruth Ridolfi (Walton)

Alice Ruth Ridolfi - June 08, 2018 at 11:27 AM



“ I only met Mrs. Kulpinski earlier this year, as she was keen to get all of her wonderful memories collected into a book about her life. Her love of writing manifested in many charming essays about growing up in Detroit's Polish immigrant community, attending St. Hyacinth Elementary and Catholic Central High School for girls (before it moved out of downtown Detroit), being a bridal consultant at Saks Fifth Avenue, meeting and marrying John, the love of her life, accepting that she could not have her own children by becoming a teacher, traveling the world, and some unexpected (and funny) indignities associated with growing older.

I saw her two days before she died. Alice, one of her former students, and I together put the typed manuscript in Mrs. Kulpinski's hand. When she realized what it was, she cried with joy that her dream will be realized. Her memoir will be published sometime this summer under the title, "A Brief Jaunt After All." It has been such a sweet experience to get to know such a lovely, charming, woman!. Much love to her brother Leonard and the rest of her family. ~Lindsay Passmore (Ann Arbor)

Lindsay Passmore - June 07, 2018 at 11:20 PM



“ Ms. Kulpinski launched many of us into being able to fare for ourselves in so many ways. I'm glad she had a long life and I hope her time was filled with friends and family. I pray for courage and strength to help her friends and family get through this loss. God bless all that were touched by her talented hands and heart.~Phyllis Peasley, Class of 1969

Phyllis A. Peasley - June 07, 2018 at 01:03 AM