



Renata Wolszczak

April 29, 2019

Renata Wolszczak, 86; formerly of Tonawanda, NY passed away peacefully Monday in Syracuse, NY. She was born in Łódź, Poland and immigrated to the United States in 1951. Mrs. Wolszczak was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and caring friend. Mrs. Wolszczak is survived by her husband of 63 years Mieczyslaw "Michael" Wolszczak of Syracuse, NY; their 4 children: Elizabeth (Ray) Appleby of Syracuse, Thomas (Tammy) Wolszczak of NC, Robert (Gina) Wolszczak of Buffalo, NY; Peter (Kelley Cline) Wolszczak of WA, 6 grandchildren: Michael, Stephanie, Megan, Robert, Samantha, Christian and great grandson PJ.

Special thanks go to Cynthia Mike and the Jewish Home of CNY, Terrace family, for their support and loving care.

Funeral Services will be held 9:00 AM Friday at St. Stanislaus Church, 123 Townsend Buffalo, NY where a mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Burial will be held in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY. Calling hours will be conducted 4:00 to 7:00 PM Thursday at Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home, (2510 Union Rd. Cheektowaga, NY.) The local arrangements are in the care of the Sugar Funeral Home, Inc., 224 W. 2nd St. S., Fulton, NY.

Renata was born in Poland and lived in orphanages and foster homes, during WWII , throughout Europe, from age 7, as part of the 'Germanization

movement'. She ended up living in a home for Polish Children refugees in Barcelona, Spain from ages 11-18. Her life there, along with other young people who became lifelong friends, were nourished by heroic efforts of Wanda Tozer and many others including Katherine Ciulis. She moved to the United States when she was 18, sponsored by the Father Baker organization of Lackawanna, NY, and settled in Buffalo, NY, where she lived until 2013.

Meeting Mieczyslaw Wolszczak, they married in 1955. They made a life in the St. Stanislaus parish area. Their lives were infused with family, Polish traditions and weekend dances. Michael and Renata made wonderful and dazzling dancing and life partners. Their joy of life was shared with many friends- the Białeks, Poplewskis, Łuckis and Górskis – to name just a few.

Renata was a wonderful mother who was a lioness with an indomitable spirit when it came to protecting her children. She always had the mother's instinct in knowing when they were in trouble or needed extra hugs and advice. Her and Michael's hearts were always in giving their children the best they could provide and share.

She enjoyed preparing Polish foods for every holiday, especially Easter and Christmas, and she enjoyed passing on the traditions to her children and grandchildren. Never a slacker, she was active in Polish School and her children's school PTAs.

One of her favorite family functions was the Father's Day picnic she planned every year. She loved to set up yard games, water balloon fights and then just watch everyone enjoying themselves!

Renata truly enjoyed bowling. She had many 200+ games and her team and she won league championships regularly. Bowling became a favorite family activity as well. Renata also volunteered at DeGraff Hospital for several years, working in the gift shop.

Renata maintained a close relationship with her sister-in-law, Wanda Zwolak, and her entire family. They provided Renata with years of humor, companionship and unending love as well as for the rest of her family.

She had several jobs, working at Millstream Lanes and TOPS Markets. She took great satisfaction in helping her customers while interacting with them and her fellow workers, and often, becoming their friend and advisor. She easily offered up her help to young people, neighbors and even strangers. Her experiences in orphanages made her very sensitive to people in need and without family to help. Her sensitivity fostered and directed her deep love of family.

In 2012, Renata was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. As time progressed, the disease slowly robbed her of memories and capabilities but it did not rob her of her spirit and she often showed that strong rebellion against unfairness, only this time it was against the ravages of losses and her lack of control over it. The nursing home staff and the care they provided was her and our salvation these last years. People who care for the elderly and sick have a special place in heaven waiting for them.

Her family has missed Renata's direct presence in their lives over these last few years. Yet, when visited by family and friends, it seemed she tried to put her best forward, still trying to interact and provide companionship, as she could. In a very recent visit from her infant great grandson and granddaughter, she exhibited much joy and love, more than had been seen in recent months.

Michael, the love of her life, continued with his caring ways for his wife. Even in his last talks to her, he spoke of their fun times dancing, picnics and long car rides and meeting up in another place to continue the fun. To the end, he loved her with his whole heart.

Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Cemetery

700 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - Cheektowaga
2510 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-3122
<https://smolarekfh.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 3. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Church
123 Townsend Street
Buffalo, NY 14212

Tribute Wall



“ Please take a look at these pictures of her life memories
<https://youtu.be/ICNI7dXXXpl>

Elizabeth Appleby - May 03, 2019 at 03:21 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of
Renata Wolszczak.



May 02, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Renata Wolszczak.



May 01, 2019 at 12:22 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - May 01, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Renata Wolszczak.*



April 30, 2019 at 10:52 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Renata Wolszczak.*



April 30, 2019 at 10:20 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Renata Wolszczak.*



April 30, 2019 at 08:16 PM

CA

“ I loved my Ciocia Renia very much. I will always remember spending a week at her home every summer. She always made it fun, like taking us kids to the public swimming pool. Easter was always a treat at her house. She made us Easter baskets and would have us find them. I'll always remember our birthday parties with all our cousins, gathered around a Lippy's layer cake. I'll cherish memories of our many Christmas gatherings too. Summer-time picnics we're always great times too. May she rest in peace after a life well-lived. Love always, her niece Celestine Arena.

Celestine Arena - April 30, 2019 at 07:25 PM

BS

“ A lot of childhood memories with the Wolszczak family, from picnics with the Lotniczy to Polish School at St. Stan's. Remembering Pani Wolszczak fondly and with love. Eternal rest grant unto her Oh Lord...

Barbara Solecki-Fenski

Barbara M. Solecki-Fenski - April 30, 2019 at 07:17 PM