



Catherine Helen Skiba

February 18, 2015

The family of Catherine Helen (Banas) Skiba celebrate her life and mark her passing on February 18, 2015. Catherine was the daughter of the late Joseph and Antonina (Horst) Banas, and the widow of Frank X Skiba. She was born on Potter Street in Hartford, CT on Sept. 28, 1910.

Her school life began at Washington St. School, and continued through her graduation from BHS. The first to attend college, she completed coursework at Hartford Business School, and received her degree in 1930. She began her business career at the Travelers Ins. Co., and was later employed by the Aetna Ins. Co. Catherine retired from her position as administrative assistant in 1975, only to begin a new career with the Hartford Public School System. She worked at HPHS as assistant office manager and food services cashier. At age 91, Catherine retired again, and filled her time with gardening, home maintenance projects, shopping for bargains and socializing with her sister Wanda Litke. Catherine and Frank X Skiba were married in June of 1938 at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford. Both were active supporters of the Church, and Catherine at 104 became the oldest recorded communicant of the Church. Kay's younger life was a full one. She volunteered with the Red Cross during WWII, and served as the Htfd Division, Polish Sect. executive & international secretary. She was a member of several Polish clubs and societies; including PLAV Post 51, the Polish National Home, and the Polish Republican Club. Mr. & Mrs. Skiba traveled extensively and enjoyed several trips to Cuba and the Bahamas, as well as adventures along both the US east

and west coasts. Christmas meant a train trip to NYC, so “the girls”, her nieces, could see the tree at Rockefeller Center and the Macy’s window decorations. Kay or Kit, as she was affectionately known by her brothers, spent summers at the CT shore, in upstate New York and in southern California. Aunt Kay celebrated more recent holidays with her extended family, either in Marlborough, Newington or Middletown. It was during these family days that her sense of humor and her story telling abilities would shine, and her fabulous smile appeared. Cathy’s Hartford neighbors admired her work ethic and often commented that her property was the best kept on the street. She prided herself in the cleanliness and appearance of her home. You could find her sun-up to sundown tending to any chore that caught her attention. Being frugal, she was one of the original recyclers. She also acted as Nanny for young Anne & Matt Dyson. Mrs. Skiba lived independently until age 98, and sincerely appreciated the kind gestures and protective attitude of her neighbors. In 2006, Catherine became interested in Civil War Artillery and enlisted as a member of the 1st Ct. Light Artillery, a cannon crew, and at age 96, she actively participated in educational demonstrations and artillery competitions. Her duty, in position #4, was to light the fuse and fire the cannon. Her bio has been published by the Windham Chronicle and the Am. Artillery Assoc. Kay had an enthusiasm for life that reached into many corners and around many bends. She would say, “I would rather shoot the cannon than go to a party”. Feisty trooper! Her’s was a richly eclectic and vastly rewarding personal experience. She was our “Auntie Mame”. Behind the sophisticated lady, with the dark glasses and cigarette holder, however, was a person who would melt for a little boy, a stray dog or a yellow canary. Catherine Skiba survived the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, WWII, the 60’s, the Space Age, and the Computer Revolution. Quite an accomplishment! Mrs. Skiba was predeceased by her parents and husband, and her 3 siblings and their spouses: Wanda & Louis Litke, Fred & Helen Banas, and Ted & Vera Banas. She is survived by her nieces and their spouses: Brenda & Ray Dyson, Marsha Banas, Louise & Chris Wilkinson and

Teddi & John Kopcha. Also great nieces & nephews: JL Kopcha(Christine), TJ Kopcha (Renee), Anne Sarco (Dean), and Matt Dyson, and great-great nieces & nephews: Abbey & Wesley Kopcha, and Paloma, Flora, & Luella Sarco. We wish to thank the entire staff of Ellis Manor for their affectionate and dedicated care, especially, Elaine, Lakeisha, Bozenia, and the "ladies" of B-1. You are the best! Masonic Care Hospice volunteer Lori Webb and the many assorted members of the hospice service added much to Catherine's comfort and well being. Many Thanks. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: ELLIS MANOR Recreation Program, Director Corky Collins 210 George St Hartford, CT 06114. Funeral services will be Saturday, with calling hours from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Maple Hill Chapels/Talarski Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery

1 Cottage Grove Rd
Bloomfield, CT

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB 21. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

SS Cyril & Methodius Church
Father Jerzy Popieluszko Court
Hartford, CT
(860) 522-9157