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IRENE PATAKI KRUPP



Irene Pataki Krupp, 86, passed away at home, surrounded by her loving family Monday, June 28th, 2010.

Irene was born in Lorain, Ohio on January 12, 1924 to Michael Pataki and Margaret Szabo Pataki, Hungarian immigrants. Hungarian was her first language and she frequently spiced up her conversations with Hungarian phrases.

Irene was the third of five children. Raised in northern Ohio, she was at the top of her graduating classes from Clearview High School and Elyria Memorial Hospital Registered Nursing program (1946).

In high school, the cheerleader met the love of her life, the star athlete Gene (Red) Krupp. They were married in September, 1946 upon his return from WWII and the completion of her nursing program.

She practiced nursing for 30 years and implemented several cutting edge programs at hospitals in Ohio and Florida. Her specialty was neonatal intensive care which Irene helped implement at Lee Memorial Hospital. She had intuitive nursing skills that were highly regarded by her colleagues coupled with an extraordinary level of compassion and love for her babies and their families. She was known to knit sweaters and caps to send with babies who were being given up for adoption because she wanted it known that someone cared about these little ones.

After retiring from nursing, Irene was the director of the Barbara Krupp Gallery in downtown Fort Myers for many years.

Family was everything to her and she was everything to her family. Irene and Gene had six children over seventeen years: five daughters and finally, finally a son. Her children and their families always were a joyful priority.

Retiring to Jamaica Bay, she never lived more than a few minutes from at least several of her children.

In 1986, she handled the sudden loss of her husband of forty years with an uncommon grace and was sustained by her strong Christian faith. Although missing him she continued to embrace and enjoy life. She traveled frequently to Alaska, California, and Mississippi to spend extended periods of time with her children, grandchildren, and grand dogs and cats. She didn't hesitate to join her family in their lives and lifestyles whether that meant braving 40 below temperatures in Alaska, tent camping along the rugged California coastline, sitting on the front porch at sunset watching the hummingbirds in

Mississippi, kayaking off the Sanibel causeway, or fishing off the dock with a "cold one" at age 85.

She never lost her sense of personal style and loved to dress with panache. To the very end, she enjoyed her color coordinated outfits, including jewelry, lipstick, and nail polish.

She was a published and prolific wordsmith and poet. She documented her entire life with beautiful and insightful verse. Irene gleaned universal truths from the common moments of life and created poetic history and wisdom. Her's was a performance art; she loved to regale family and friends by reciting from memory her many poems. The scope of her poetry was vast, ranging from family to religion to current events. America Mourns, the inspirational poem that spilled from her immediately following 9-11, honors our country and the fallen. It hangs today in the San Carlos Fire Station.

Irene loved music of many genres and raised her children to the beats of Patsy Cline, Brenda Lee, Ray Charles, Hank Williams, the big bands, and the standards of her generation. Family gatherings have always been infused with guitars and singing, ending with spirited renditions of Good Night Irene, much to her delight.

Irene was a kind and gentle soul who lived a compassionate and non-judgmental life. Loved by many, she is enormously missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband Gene and sisters Margaret, Helen, and Lillian. She is survived by her brother Michael (Patricia) Pataki of Minnesota, her daughters Renee Krupp (Kathy) of Madeira Beach and California, Rebecca Krupp (Ken) of Mississippi, Carole Krupp Judkins (Hunter) of Alaska, Karen Foote (Tim) of Alaska, Laurie Rausch (Earl) of Cape Coral, and son Gene Krupp (Patty) of Fort Myers. She is also survived by grandchildren Katherine Pacetti Ladd, Alexander Foote, Olivia Gene Foote, Camille Judkins, Keaton Judkins, Hunter Kyle Judkins, Rachel Marie Ayres Rausch, Eleanor Irene Ayres Rausch, Lindsey Marie Rausch, Earl Joseph Rausch, Jr., Graham Oliver Krupp, and Helen Irene Krupp. Her great-grandchildren include Ryin Ladd, Siarra Ladd, Mia Ladd, and Anthony Ladd.

Irene's Memorial Service has been re-scheduled from Tuesday, July 6th to Sunday, August 1st. It will be held at 4:00 PM in the Wakefield Room at "Tween Waters Inn, Captiva Island, FL. Those wishing to memorialize Irene may make a donation to Hope Hospice. Hope Hospice Dev. Dept., 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908. <http://www.hopehospice.org/donate/>

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