



Lillian J. Rayala

May 10, 1918 - March 8, 2016

Lillian J. Rayala, age 97 formerly of Manitowish Waters, died March 8, at Seasons of Life Hospice in Woodruff, WI.

Lillian was born in South Carey, WI on May 10, 1918 to Andrew and Wilhemina Nissila, both emigrants of Finland. She along with her parents and seven siblings, were early pioneers of Manitowish Waters, arriving in the year 1928. She was married to Charles Rayala in 1933 and they moved to a one-room log cabin to begin their family. Nine children were born to the couple, six with the assistance of Dr. Kate Newcomb, affectionately known as the “Angel on Snowshoes.”

The family moved from the family homestead in 1957 to manage Weber Cranberry Acres in Manitowish Waters. Charles and Lillian managed the operation for 19 years before retiring to their new home on Alder Lake. While living there, Lillian enjoyed lengthy twice-daily swims, extending the season well beyond the comfort level of most individuals. She especially enjoyed the large family gatherings that filled her house for the Holidays and other special occasions. In later years, she found great pleasure connecting with her many friends at the Soda Grill in downtown Manitowish Waters. She was active in the Manitowish Waters Community Church serving as an Elder on the Session and participating in numerous other church activities. She was also a member of the Manitowish Waters Lionettes.

She is survived by all of the children she raised: Charles (Hester) Rayala of Manitowish Waters; Donald (Janice) Rayala of Manitowish Waters; Audrey

Rayala of Rhineland; Michael (Sherry) of Woodruff; Jerome (Paula) Rayala of Woodruff; Martin Rayala of Wilmington, DE; Carolyn (Robert) Kovar of Manitowish Waters; Bonnie Diehl of Basking Ridge, NJ; Lisa (Phil) Schobert of Stevens Point, Tari (Patrick Kohlin) Rayala of Duluth, MN. She is further survived by 24 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, half sister Vienna Seppala, half brother Arthur Ruha, half brother Toivo Ruha, sister Jennie Osterhoudt, brother Henry Nissila, brother Andrew Nissila, brother Samuel Nissila, and brother Mathew Nissila.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Manitowish Waters Community Church on March 12 at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Pastor Chips Paulson will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Manitowish Waters Community Church.

Cemetery Details

Pine Lawn Cemetery

Manitowish Waters, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

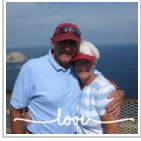
Manitowish Waters Community Church
49 S Hwy 51
Manitowish Waters, WI

Memorial Service

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Manitowish Waters Community Church
49 S Hwy 51
Manitowish Waters, WI

Tribute Wall



“ We extend our deepest sympathy to all the Rayala family on the loss of Lillian. May your treasured memories sustain you. Sending love,
Eric and Betsy Matz

Betsy Matz - March 12, 2016 at 10:51 AM



“ My sincere condolences to all of the Rayala family. I am sure she will be greatly missed by all that knew her in the Manitowish Waters community. It was a pleasure to have known her and the fine family she raised. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Robert (Buzz) Maletzke

Bob Maletzke - March 12, 2016 at 05:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Lillian J. Rayala.



March 11, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Lillian J. Rayala.



March 11, 2016 at 10:49 AM

RA

“ Our condolences to the Rayala family and especially to our good friend and Lillian's son Jerry. Not knowing Lillian but knowing what kind of person one of her sons are is a very good indication of a lady the whole family can be very proud of. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Rayala Family.

*Rolf & Christene Amundson
Wheatland, Wyoming*

Rolf & Christene Amundson - March 11, 2016 at 07:03 AM

PA

“ Charlie, Don, Jerry, Marty and family - sincere condolences to you all. What a wonderful life your Mom had. I don't remember her well, but do recall that warm smile. Remarkable woman with a remarkable family. Love to all, Pat (Maletzke) Soderlund

Patricia - March 10, 2016 at 03:44 PM

LI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lisa - March 10, 2016 at 01:36 AM

LI

“ 1 file added to the album *Rayala Memories Photos*



Lisa - March 10, 2016 at 01:32 AM

SP

“ *May God Bless you and your family.*

Susan Patterson - March 09, 2016 at 08:08 AM

 Dawn
Benson
Lentz

“ *Our deepest sympathy for you all with the passing of your loved one. She leaves behind a large and wonderful family who will always have loving memories in their hearts.
Respectfully, Thomas and Dawn Lentz*



Dawn Benson Lentz - March 09, 2016 at 06:48 AM