



Arlene McDonald

April 17, 1944 - September 18, 2021

Arlene McDonald, age 77 of Crown Point, Indiana, a lifetime area resident of Northwest Indiana, passed away Saturday, September 18, 2021. She was born in Gary, Indiana on April 17, 1944, to the late Alexander and Frances Balakir. After graduating from Lew Wallace High School and Indiana University, she was employed as a teacher and coach at Bailly Middle School in the Gary Community School Corporation. Arlene followed up her teaching career with 19 years as a State Farm insurance agent until her retirement in her mid-sixties. Following her two careers, she spent some time volunteering for Meals on Wheels and with the food pantry in Crown Point.

She enjoyed spending time doing the things she loved with her family and friends, whether it was going to musicals, bowling, listening and dancing to polka music, or playing golf or other board and card games. She will be remembered for her thoughtfulness, kindness, and for her fantastic sense of humor. Arlene was never without a clever quip or eye rolling joke and was always ready to entertain. She touched many lives and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her cousins, especially, will feel the deep loss of a one of a kind "Cuz", who never failed to bring laughter and fun into their lives.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Nicholas McDonald, stepson James McDonald, stepdaughters Jean and Jill McDonald, and her brother, Richard Balakir. She is survived by her son, Michael McDonald of Crown Point, IN; grandson, Scott McDonald of San Francisco, CA; daughter-

in-law- Mary Jo McDonald; niece, Laura (Charles) Cruise; special cousin, and friend, Janet Imboden. No services have been planned at this time. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

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“ My family and I got to know Arlene when she worked for State Farm Insurance. She was always not only helpful, but made us feel important and remembered. Her sense of humor and friendliness were very special.

Many years later, I found out one of my best friends was Arlene's cousin, and she told me about all the fun things they did together when they were growing up.

I know she will be missed by the many people who loved her. My sympathy and prayers go out to all who knew and loved her.

Joan Bowron

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