



## REMEMBERING **Victoria BASARABA**

February 23, 1923 - October 15, 2021



Victoria passed away peacefully into the loving arms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on October 15th, 2021 at the glorious age of 98 years and 8 months. Victoria (Vicky) was born on February 23, 1923 in Hamlin, Alberta to immigrant parents from Ukraine. Victoria leaves a most honourable legacy in that of being a devoted mother, Baba and great-grand-Baba. She will be sorrowfully and ever lovingly missed by her grandson, Dr. Bradley Basaraba (Dana) and their 3 children, Naomi, Michael and Nathan; son, Ed (Joan) and their 3 children, Karin, Jared and Darren (Meg); sisters-in-law, Roselyn Rudiak and Olive (Basaraba) Smith; and many loving and kind nieces and nephews here in Western Canada as well as in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, Uruguay and Argentina. Victoria was predeceased by her daughter, Phyllis; husband, Bill in 1964; parents, Ivan and Raifta; all her siblings, Metro (1987), Mary (1997), Mike (2007), Fred (2010) and George (2018); sister Anna and brother Roman who died in infancy.

She married William Basaraba in 1946 and moved to Smoky Lake where they settled on his grandfather's homestead. They worked hard as a team and ran a lucrative mixed farming operation. Later Vicky and Bill operated an all-night gas service station and restaurant at Clyde. After Bill's tragic death, Victoria, now a widow and at a young age, moved with her children to Edmonton.

Vicky was a lifelong member of St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Edmonton. A delightful time of her life was being involved in the church choir and enjoying the friendship.

Mom upheld all her Ukrainian traditions. She prepared the Holy Christmas Eve supper every year and was delighted to entertain her family and guests. Her kolochi were tasty with the perfect texture and lightness. Her sauerkraut and cabbage rolls

were the best. And so were her doughnuts and pompushy.

She was an artist in her own right. As a young lady she painted her father's hand-carved benches with a floral and a unique Ukrainian design. She worked well with the foot treadle on her Singer Sewing Machine. She was a very creative and talented seamstress sewing a wide assortment of her wardrobe from 2 piece suites to dresses for work and other occasions.

Victoria had a great appreciation for the vast variety and diverse outdoor scenery. In her earlier years, she made many summer trips through the Rocky Mountains - alone - either by train or Greyhound bus to visit her sister Mary in Vancouver. She always came back home with boxes packed with blueberries, shrubs, or perennials.

After retirement, Victoria's first exciting and memorable journey was to Chernivtsi, Bukovyna, Ukraine with daughter Phyllis and granddaughter Karin. At her parent's villages, she was received with generous hospitality. It was exciting to meet relatives that her mother had years past corresponded with. She spent the whole month sightseeing and enjoying a happy time. Vicky returned with many souvenirs of folklore crafts and among the folklore crafts, there were 15 bottles of vodka - if you can count that as souvenirs. Vicky travelled to Arizona in the winter of 1983 to visit grandson Brad where he was a student in Scottsdale; then later to Dallas, Texas, again to visit Brad where he was studying at the Dallas chiropractor college. There at Dallas, she attended the Dallas Cowboys football game. She enjoyed visiting Disneyland and other sites in LA; vacationing at the white sand shores of Cozumel and exploring the Mayan Ruins in Mexico; as well as retreating to the beaches at Cancun. At Nogales, Mexico she was fascinated with the art of the native basket weaving and bought a vast assortment of woven placemats and baskets as a memory of the craft.

A very exciting and eventful trip for Victoria was to travel to London, England and take in all the famous landmarks and sites with her daughter Phyllis and grandson Brad. The weather was most favourable for a boat trip down the renowned river Thames, to tour the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, watch the changing of the guards and take a half-day ride in the famous black taxis to view the famous sites of London. The trip to London was indeed a great accomplishment for a young farm girl from Hamlin who wanted to make a few pennies by selling gopher tails three cents a tail.

In her later years summer vacations were spent closer to home. There were yearly trips to mountain resorts with her family to Jasper Park Lodge, Banff, Lake Louise, Fairmont Hot Springs or to the "always hot" Okanagan. She was happy to be among the Rocky Mountains, amazed at the glacial fields, the crystal-clear lakes. She especially liked to count the slow-moving train cars that were winding their way through the mountains.

In the past decade, Vicky especially loved the trips to the remodelled family farmhouse. She liked to see the grain and hayfields, the ponds and cattle grazing on the pastures along the roadway. At the farm, she fondly talked about her parents and the various and creative ways that they lived their pioneer years.

Vicky loved the changing seasons and waited anxiously for spring to arrive. The coming of spring signalled to her that it was time to plant her garden, bedding plants

and trim the shrubs. Vicky was intrigued by flowers of all varieties and fragrances which she planted in her garden. Being a true farm girl Vicky found the greatest pleasure in gardening and would work all day outdoors. She continued caring for her flower beds until her last three years, and even then, she hoed the flowers while sitting on a lawn chair. The fresh air and being in the sun positively uplifted her spirits and did wonders for her health. Being so active and strong certainly helped prolong her life.

Her last years were spent nurturing her geranium house plants. As a strong spirited woman, Vicky trusted in God to guide her and comfort her and give her strength. She was independent and managed her own state of affairs. We respectfully wrap our loving hands around you dear mom and Baba and hold you in high esteem for all the love and devotion you have given us. And now we release you to our loving Heavenly Father. "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall".

Genuine appreciation to Dr. Vinay Deved, her nephrologist and the Good Samaritan Medical Team for the compassionate care that our mother and grandmother had received over the years.

- Written by her loving daughter Phyllis (May, 2021)

A Private Funeral Service will be held at Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel, St. Paul. Reverend Father Peter Haugen will be officiating with interment in St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, Hamlin. Due to CO19, 40-day remembrance is not possible, please contact Dr. Basaraba at [drbones@shaw.ca](mailto:drbones@shaw.ca) to be added to a mailing list for the Remembrance/Celebration of two special people, Victoria and Phyllis Basaraba who are missed. To send condolences online, please visit [www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com](http://www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com).

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