



Mary R. Karpowich

June 12, 1920 - November 7, 2024

Mary R. Karpowich (nee Rajca), 104, of River Edge, formerly of Lakewood, NJ, passed away peacefully on November 7, 2024. Mary was born on June 12, 1920 in Philadelphia, PA to Zofia and Josef Rajca. She served during WWII, US Army, rank of Corporal, Women's Army Corps (WAC) at the Armored Tank Division, Ft. Knox, KY. Prior to that, Mary was a civilian worker at the Philadelphia Arsenal, Small Arms Division. As a teenager, Mary worked summers at Groff's Restaurant and Douglass Fudge on the Wildwood (NJ) Boardwalk. Mary later worked at The Bergen Record, earning many awards for her acumen in classified advertising, and also as a sales associate at Saks Fifth Avenue. Mary worked for 30 years as an Election Official until she was 98. Mary was a big Yankee fan, enjoyed college basketball games and the beach. She was skilled at ceramics, well known for sharing \$2 bills with her grandchildren, and an avid letter writer. She loved her family's dogs, cats and horses.

She married Anthony B. Karpowich in 1944, a teacher, coach, and collegiate, military and pro basketball star. The couple were blessed with eight children, 15 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Mary is survived by her children: Lorraine Karpowich (Pasquale Ciambriello), Kathleen Langer (Samuel), Anne Joyner (John), Anthony Karpowich (Joann), Missy Belger (Joseph), and James Karpowich (Larisa Tsvetkova). Grandchildren: Bradley Langer (Eileen), Matthew Langer (Katie), Richard Ciambriello (Coleen), Christina Ciambriello, Mark Langer (Stephanie), Justin Joyner (Elizabeth), Jonathan Joyner (Emily), Joseph Belger (Kristin), Peter Ciambriello (Olivia), Scott Langer (Rachel), Juliette Haggerty (James), Brandon Karpowich (Kimberly), Brianna Peterson (Erik), Jenna Karpowich, and James Karpowich, Jr. Great-grandchildren: Kaitlyn Langer, Emma Langer, Maeve Langer, Elizabeth Langer, Andrea Langer, Elise Langer, Rosalia Ciambriello, Nico Ciambriello, Jeremy Langer, Luca Ciambriello, Eleanor Joyner, Glada Ciambriello, Jack Joyner, Piper Joyner, and Olivia Belger. Nephew: John Rajca and niece Carolyn Rajca.

Mary was predeceased by her son Lawrence (1945), brother Charles Rajca, Sr. (1966), husband Anthony (1972), daughter Anita (1983), brother-in-law Charles Dinger (2009), daughter-in-law June Karpowich (2019), sister Helen Dinger (2019) and nephew Charles,

Jr. (2021).

The family will receive friends and relatives at Volk-Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ on Friday, November 15, 2024 from 4pm-8pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, November 16 at 10am, St. Peter the Apostle Church, 445 Fifth Avenue, River Edge, NJ. Interment will be at George Washington Memorial Cemetery, Paramus, NJ.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to: The Residence at St. Peter's, 415 Fifth Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 at www.stpetersresidence.org or Talisman Therapeutic Riding, 172 Blue Ribbon Lane, Grasonville, MD 21638 at: www.talismantherapeuticriding.org.

Cemetery Details

George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter the Apostle
445 5th Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

Tribute Wall



“ Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary R. Karpowich



Volk Leber Funeral Home - November 15, 2024 at 02:30 PM

BD

Beautiful lady

Bonnie Deledda - November 15, 2024 at 11:33 AM

BD

So many happy times. Great memories I learned so much from her about being positive through everything in life. I was honored to be her friend

Bonnie Deledda - November 15, 2024 at 11:39 AM



“ 331 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - November 15, 2024 at 09:03 AM

EC

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mary Karpowich where she lived in Leisure Village East in Lakewood, New Jersey. Mary was well respected and loved there. She was involved in many of the activities there. She worked on the Leisure Times, the village newspaper and was a valued member of the Choristers, the village singing group. Whenever they had a concert, Mary's family would attend and loudly cheer her on. Mary was always dignified and a joy to be around. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Elaine Carty, friend from Leisure Village East

Elaine Carty - November 13, 2024 at 12:09 AM

KC

“ I did not know Mrs. Karpowich. I read her obituary in the Record and was struck by her picture in uniform. I have such respect for the women in the military especially the WWII vets. From what I read she was an extraordinary women. My condolences to her family. May she rest in well deserved peace. 🇺🇸

Katherine Capizzi - November 10, 2024 at 06:52 AM

GS

I did not know her but I know her son. The son James. My condolences go out to him and the rest of his family.

Grace Samaniego - November 11, 2024 at 12:06 PM

EG

I didn't know Mary Karpowich, but her biography impressed me! Her life was filled with service, resilience, and a deep love for family. My condolences go out to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as they celebrate the legacy of a remarkable woman.

Ella Garrone - November 12, 2024 at 09:52 PM