



Evelyn S. Nichols

October 23, 1925 - April 25, 2017

Evelyn S. Nichols, 91, passed away early Tuesday morning at Berkshire Place in Pittsfield after a short illness. Born in Pittsfield on October 23, 1925, she was the daughter of Joseph C. and Mary Pyra Skowron. Mrs. Nichols was a 1943 graduate of Pittsfield High School and a lifelong resident of Pittsfield. On May 15, 1944 in Holy Family Church, Evelyn married her husband Charles. After her children were grown, she was employed for 15 years as a bookkeeper for the family-owned business, Nichols Package Store. Ever proud of her Polish heritage, Evelyn took great comfort in her Catholic faith which she passed on to her family. For years she attended 6:50 AM Mass before getting her six children off to parochial school. Very involved in her church, she served as president of St. Charles Rosary Society, chaired many successful fundraisers, was a CCD teacher, sang as a choir member, and baked weekly for parish bingo.

A very talented seamstress, Evelyn sewed altar coverings and made vestments for priests as well as knitting hundreds of caps for newborn babies at BMC. She enjoyed puzzles, playing cards, bingo, the casino and the Red Sox. With her late husband, Evelyn belonged to the American Legion Pitch League for many years. Once the children were grown Evelyn traveled cross country and abroad with her husband. In her spare time, she worked on almost every reunion for her class of 1943, the last being her 70th. Evelyn felt blessed to celebrate her 70th wedding anniversary with her husband, Charles L. Nichols, Sr., in May 2014 just before he passed away in

June 2014. She was also predeceased by her daughter, Judith A. Maniatis, in March 2015. As the last of seven siblings, Evelyn was predeceased by her brother, PFC Robert B. Skowron, who was killed in the Korean War, her brother Edward J. Skowron, and her sisters Helen V. Skowron, Dorothy S. McInerney, Isabelle J. Callahan and JoAnne C. Peplowski.

Evelyn is survived by Michael J. Nichols of Pittsfield, David H. Nichols and his wife Grace of Denver, CO, and Charles L. Nichols, Jr. and his wife Carol of Pittsfield, Theresa A. Lipari and her husband Francis of Plymouth, MA and Wanda M. Nichols of San Francisco, CA. "Grandma Bebe" will be dearly missed by her grandchildren, John, Paul, Marc, Lisa, Amanda and Milena, as well as her great grandchildren, Margo, Carina and Paulina.

The family would like to thank the compassionate care givers at Berkshire Place and Hospice of Western Mass. for the loving attention given to Evelyn during her final illness.

FUNERAL NOTICE:

Calling hours for Mrs. Evelyn S. Nichols will be at the Dwyer Funeral Home in Pittsfield, MA on Sunday, April 30 2017 from 2 to 5 PM. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated for Mrs. Nichols on Monday, May 1 2017, at 11 AM at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Pittsfield, MA with the Rev. Daniel B. Brunton of Westfield, MA presiding. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ALS or Alzheimer's Association in care of the funeral home at 776 North St., Pittsfield MA. 01201.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Church
89 Briggs Ave.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
<http://stcharlespittsfield.org/>

Tribute Wall

“All of us here today knew and loved Evelyn: her humor, her grace, her devotion to her faith, and her fierce toughness that stayed with her right up to the end. Some of us knew her as a friend, a mother, a grandmother, even great grandmother.

I feel lucky to have had 30 with her as Grandma Bebe, and later in life, as a close friend. As a Grandmother, she was textbook perfect. Growing up, my sister Milena, and I would find jars of cookies, her teddy bear collection, and puzzles awaiting us each time we arrived from Colorado. She would cuddle us and sing us gentle songs that as kids, made us wonder... what was a bushel and a peck and how could you love someone in that way? But she showed us.

Then 2 years after graduating from college, I went out to Pittsfield to spend a month at 333 Wahconah, just up the road from Harry's Supermarket and the Nichols Package Store where the family shared so many memories.

I had just returned from a year in Africa and my life was unsettled. I decided spend time with and help my Grandma, who was at the time taking care of Grandpa Chuck.

We were excellent company for each other: she allowed me my space, and eventually let me help out with a few things around the house, like making Chuck's pudding. In exchange, I gave her company and the time she needed to watch her daily soap...

Because as she loved to say, "I take 1 hour for myself everyday!" By the time I left Pittsfield, I'd come to know Bebe through the bonds of an adult relationship I will hold dearly and daily for the rest of my life. She was still the sweet, blue-eyed grandmother that curled my hair as a child and let me dress up in her aprons but she was now also a friend, a companion to pass the hours away sipping black coffee at the kitchen table while we exchanged stories.

Bebe was well into her eighties at this point, and Chuck celebrating his 90th. She had a few aches and pains she would complain about, but you could always tell there was a playfulness behind her every action. She carried a sense of humor that she had honed over years of playing hostess, winning card nights, joking with friends, and keeping up with her kids.

She shared this humor in many ways, including through her stories.

She had her favorites and I'm sure you have yours. One of mine was the story of her running over her own leg with her car – with poor little Wanda there at the donut shop watching... and then being sworn to secrecy to not tell anyone, especially Father Brunton. During this time with her and Grandpa, she began teaching me a few of her recipes like her famous pierogis. Every time I opened her kitchen cabinet to find her box of recipes, I was reminded of her motherly devotion to her kids. She kept a list in there of which vegetables her sons, daughters and spouses-in-laws liked – and didn't like. It was so simple but how could you not appreciate the way in which she loved and attended to each of her children's sensitivities?

When I returned home from my extended visit with Grandma Bebe, I felt a new fullness in my heart from the time with Grandma and the friendship we developed. I looked to her with deep admiration and held 2 of her values in particular as life lessons: these were her humor, and her compassion for others. Sitting at Bebe's kitchen table, no matter who she might be poking fun at, you always knew that her character and her faith brought her to love and accept all people. She may not agree with you but she didn't fight your nature. She found space for you in her heart and prayers. Even if you were bearded, or didn't like mushrooms, or wore funny colored nail polish. So my parting thanks to my Grandmother, Evelyn Nichols, is a thank you for teaching me the values of humor and acceptance. I hope that all of you, as you exchange stories of Evelyn today, find her characteristic humor and grace in each and every one of these stories. I encourage you to mindfully practice these qualities so that she lives on through her family & friends.

Amanda Podmore - May 04, 2017 at 08:19 AM

AP

“ I would like to share the eulogy I gave for Evelyn Nichols, my Grandma Bebe at her funeral service on May 1st at St. Charles church. I am especially grateful for our friends at St. Charles, Father Brunton, and the Dwyer community for making her services so beautiful.

With love, Amanda Nichols Podmore

Please see following post for the eulogy.

Amanda Podmore - May 04, 2017 at 08:13 AM

JO

“ I still have the little caps your Mom knitted for my twins. Such wonderful memories of you all...Jon

Jon - May 03, 2017 at 01:07 PM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - April 28, 2017 at 10:02 AM