



## Sophie Graikowski

May 20, 2009

Sophie Margaret Bednarz Graikowski, 98, passed away on May 20, 2009, at the Medalion Care Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. She was born Oct. 30, 1910, in Minneapolis, Minn., to parents Paul Bednarz and Mary Godek. She was married 52 years to Michael Graikowski, who passed away in 1984. They had a daughter, Dorothy Sutton, and a son, Robert Graikowski, plus eight grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. She was the oldest of her siblings, Joseph Bednarz, Anne Casey and Julie Matan, who all preceded her in death, as did great granddaughter Alaina. Sophie was the ultimate homemaker and Grandma who put supper on the table every day, and was in her element cooking and hosting each month's family gathering to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. Some of her specialties were black-cherry cream-cheese jello, Polish kolacky pastries, and Easter glazed ham with a side of coconut bunny cake. On Christmas Eve, it was a favorite tradition for everyone to open gifts one at a time so each could be acknowledged, which of course took hours. In the summer, she and Grandpa hosted a Father's Day BBQ in their manicured Chicago backyard lined with peonies and rose bushes, and served delicious fall-off-the-bone spare ribs. She was a talented seamstress who made clothes for her family, sewed drapes and slipcovers for friends and neighbors, and worked part-time in the drapery department at Sears for ten years. She became especially popular with her teen grandkids for buying them the chart-topping 45s each week. She and Mike enjoyed regular penny-ante poker

parties with their friends, who made keepsake fans of dollar bills for each other's milestone wedding anniversaries. The couple liked to travel and went to Europe for their 35th anniversary and Hawaii for their 40th. Sophie did not drive, but was adept at using Chicago's transit system. She took the grandkids downtown many years to see the holiday store windows and multi-story Christmas tree at Marshall Field. The ride on the el train that ran just feet from tenement back porches was as memorable as the sights themselves. On non-holiday visits, an outing was typically to the park or the Ben Franklin to pick out a toy or game, with a side trip to White Castle or Burger King. As great grandma, she was just as generous while babysitting, letting the granddaughters play with her clothes and makeup, and giving them laundry quarters for a snack from the vending machines. Her favorite restaurant was Red Lobster, where she ordered shrimp scampi. Her favorite activity was Bingo, which she played frequently, enjoyed immensely and won often. And her dearest friend was Jessie Tallman, also a Medalion resident, who was a card-playing buddy, dinner partner, hand-holding companion and confidante, and often helped Sophie in ways that her family could not. Sophie was a Catholic who regularly prayed for her entire family, and was especially fond of the Polish Pope John Paul. In later years, Sophie endured arthritis that eventually necessitated three knee joint replacement surgeries. It slowed her down, but didn't dampen her spirit. She was a woman who corresponded with family and friends throughout her life, and remembered birthdays and special occasions. Each month, she would pencil the date of each occasion in the corner of the pre-addressed envelopes so she would know when to send them. It was no surprise when so many sent Sophie commemorative cards and notes for her 75th birthday scrapbook, and came to visit from near and far to celebrate her 80th, 90th and 95th birthdays. It meant so much to her to be remembered in a tangible way, and the cards, notes, photos and mementos literally covered the walls of her room at the care center through her very last day. A funeral service for Mrs. Graikowski will be held on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memory

Gardens Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Sophie Graikowski Memorial Fund in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *What a wonderful write up, Ginny, of your grandmother. She sounds like a lovely lady and someone I wish I could have known. You and your family are in our prayers. There's nothing like the unconditional love of a grandparent.*

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**Monica Burck** - May 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *Sophie was a very special lady. She always remember our Birthdays, and our Anniversary. She was, like our Mother, always beautiful, friendly, and loving. We will always remember her in our hearts. Our heartfelt sympathy to all of the family, and all our love. Gary, Donna and Family*

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**Gary and Donna** - May 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *What a blessing to have been touched by your dear Sophie. She was as steady a person as there was. So seldom did she have a complaint that we hardly knew she had a negative thought. She was so devoted to her Lord and her family. We shall forever be grateful to have known her and her family. God's peace and comfort to her family. Chaplain Dave Campbell*

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**chaplain Dave Campbell** - May 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ *Dear Dorothy and family, With fond remembrances of your Mother, please accept our sympathy. A mass will be offered in her honor. Sincerely, Harry & Judy*

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**Harry Blus** - May 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TS

“Kathie, my deepest sympathies at your loss. "Grandma" must have been a wonderful lady, and I hope that your memories of good times will comfort you.

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**Tacy Sjostrom** - May 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“I have so many fond memories of Grandma Sophie. She was not my Grandma, but a Grandma, Great Grandma and Great Great Grandma to many of my loved ones. Sophia would watch Jennifer until Kathy got home from her job in Denver or until I could pick her up from work. There was always a very special smile on her face that would make anybody glow, she could light up a room. She had a heart of gold and would do anything in the world for you. I remember a few of our last visits when she would come in for her eye appointments. I would see her all alone until Dottie arrived to be with her. I would go over and say Hi! and once she heard my familiar voice she would smile and strike up a conversation until it was time for her to go visit the Doctor. Sophie will always hold a special place in my heart and in hearts of all those who love and cherish her.

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**Cheryl Jordan** - May 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BK

“As we mourn the passing of "Gramma G" we are all left humbled for the unselfish life she lived. What a beautiful example of a Christian lady; one who always put her Lord, family and friends first. She will always be remembered for her sweet, gentle ways and for always making sure there was room for one more at her table. One thing for sure, God has already elevated her to "head chef" and the heavenly body will now get to enjoy her excellent culinary skills! For all who had the priviledge of knowing "Gramma G" whether family, friend or neighbor, we have all been given a beautiful example to emulate!

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**BaryAnn Koenig** - May 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ We have wonderful memories of Aunt Sophie. The family gatherings at her home, and all the many times she helped us over the years. She was loved and she will be missed.

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**Jerry and Patricia Roos** - May 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Sending love and prayers to an elegant lady.

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**Claire E. Gilkey** - May 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ Tom and I extend our deepest sympathy for your great loss. I remember your Grandmother fondly. She will be missed. May God comfort all of you.

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**Connie Eadon** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Kathie, What a wonderful woman your grandmother must have been! Thank you so much for sharing memories of her with us, your "I'll Stand by You" sisters. Love and prayers, Susie Fowler

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**Susie Fowler** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ You were the greatest Mother a son could have. Bob

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**Bob Graikowski** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Grandma Your sweet smile, Your soft touch. the advice that never hurt but healed... You've made growing up easier. You've taught me the most important things, To live life fully, and cherish those you love.

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**Brian Graikowski** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Kathie and Family, I'm praying for you at this difficult time. Take comfort in knowing Sophie is now with Jesus and hold tight to the many wonderful memories you have of this remarkable woman. I know she impacted many lives and was a great role model as well. I wish I'd had the opportunity to meet her.

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**Judy Beltz** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I believe that it was Sophie who helped kathie and me get a real record collection started. I love the fact that she was 'grandma' to all of the friends of her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed, but her deep faith, her selfless presence, and her enduring spirit will not be forgotten.

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**Janis Flint-Ferguson** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Great Grandma will be missed. My prayers to the family.

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**Michelle Endres** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ My dear friend Lisa always mentioned her grandma and I told her how lucky she was to have had such a long and endearing relationship. A beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady.

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**Vanessa** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Dottie, Your Mom had a wonderful life and sounds like the type of Grandma that any child would want. I am sure you inherited her vigor for life.

Suzanne Craig - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Dottie, Just want to extend my sympathy to you and your family. I know your faith will help all of you through the days ahead. That, and the obviously warm memories you have of your mother and your life with her.

Karen Holton - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ My Dear D.D.Dottie, My heart goes out to you. Your mother sounds like such a wonderful lady and it's now easy to see why you are the special person and friend that you are. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Big Hugs, Judi

Judi - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Sophie and that is my loss but I have the good fortune to number her daughter among my friends, a gift I am grateful for.

Peter Rallis - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Miss D.D.Dottie, Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family, With heartfelt sympathy.. Thinking of you and sharing your sorow.. With Much Love PAT

pat plamondon - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ Time and prayer are the keys to healing pain. I offer you both. May God's love make your grief bearable.

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**Edna Escalante** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Great Aunt Sophies passing. I have many wonderful memories of her and Uncle Mike. I remember when Lisa and I stayed several days with them one summer. I think it was 1972. We played Rummy Royale every night! We slept upstairs and would listen to the radio until late in the night. I remember also her wonderful cooking. She put out quite a spread on holidays. Aunt Sophie was always very kind and generous to me. Please accept my deepest sympathies and condolences.

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**Sally Roos Real** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CI

“ I was middle-named Margaret after Grandma. And to this day, I use the blonde wood coffee-table from her living room and the dark wood end-table from the den where she and Grandpa watched TV and ‘rested their eyes’ in their respective upholstered rockers each night. Those tables are still topped with their cut-to-fit polished-edge glass protectors, just as Grandma’s couch and side chairs bore protective clear plastic slipcovers for so many years. I especially remember drinking from those jewel colored aluminum tumblers that were so popular in Grandma’s era, and being tucked in during summer sleepovers in the attic bedrooms and told that ‘Tomorrow is another day.’”

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**Cindy** - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Grandma Sophie you will be missed. Thanks for being the BEST Grandmother anyone could have. You will be a hard act to follow! I have VERY precious memories of my time with you.

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**Kathie Murrow** - May 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Our Lord is merciful. Our prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Remember, we will all eventually be together again.

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**Robert L Gamble Jr** - May 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ This is my grand mother and she will be missed by me. I was the youngest and love to be spoiled by grandma. They do not make Grandmas like that anymore. They broke the mold with Sophie. I named my daughter after her in tribute.

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**Lisa** - May 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM