



## Anita O. Pitlock

August 1, 1933 - March 15, 2022

Beloved wife of the late Jack; loving mother of David (Bridget), Susan (Linas) Velavicius, Gerald (Kathleen) and Linda (Gerard) Vecore; dearest grandmother of Benjamin, Jackson, Alan, Kevin (Vicky), Matthew, Andrew, Samantha and Bryan; dear great grandmother of Jack and soon to be Peter; sister of the late Mildred Leach.

Anita Pitlock was born in Detroit, Michigan to Alice and John Pines. After losing her mother at 3 years old, Anita was raised by her father. A Russian immigrant, John served the United States during World War 1 and worked in Ford's famous River Rouge Factory. Besides her father, Anita admired her older sister, Millie. Millie was 10 years older and served as a strong role model for Anita, as did other women in their Detroit Neighborhood. Anita's neighbor Sonia and her mother became an extension of Anita's immediate family. Anita developed a passion for reading and learning during her childhood. She graduated from Detroit Commerce high school's business program in 1951. During school she worked in the administrative office of Cass Tech High School. She spoke fondly of taking the streetcar to get to work after school. After graduation she worked as an administrative assistant at R.C. Mahone. After high school, she was introduced to Jack Pitlock by mutual friends. Her and Jack loved to go on long drives around Detroit together while dating. The two got married at St. Augustine church and celebrated with friends and family in nearby Belle Isle Park, one of Anita's favorite places. The couple bought their first home in Warren, where they began to raise their family.

Anita's children became extremely close with her father John, who lived with the family. As well her sister Millie's family, who lived nearby. They had many family traditions together, including an annual trip to get the family Christmas Trees. Anita became known as the "neighborhood mom". She helped care for many children in the area, who often joined the family for dinner. Anita was known for her specialties of City Chicken, Stuffed Cabbage, and Potato Pancakes.

In 1976 the family moved to Anita's final home in Sterling Heights. As the family grew up, Anita and Jack encouraged their children to pursue many interests, including sports, music, and art. Over the years they enjoyed family trips. Anita built a large collection of road maps because she was the family's navigator. Anita's favorite places were Southern California, Las Vegas, and Sanibel Island Florida. Sanibel Island nurtured Anita's passion for seashell collecting, for which she was featured in a local newspaper after finding a rare, intact Junonia shell. She was also a critical member of the newly founded St. Jane's catholic parish in Sterling Heights. She regularly served as a Sacristan helping organize parish events, was a founding member of the parish Women's and Gardening Clubs, and became life long friends with her priest, Father Leon Page.

Anita was an accepting and loving mother-in-law to all of her children's spouses. She loved to grow her family and make new connections with people. Her and Jack loved to babysit their grandchildren and host family parties together until his death in 2000. Losing Jack was painful for Anita, but she was resilient and found renewed purpose in caring for her family and friends. She made several phone calls to family and friends per day, just to catch up or sing her famous rendition of "Happy Birthday". She became an avid fan of youth wrestling, soccer, swimming, track, horseback riding, baseball, basketball, and football. She almost never missed one of her grandchildren's events, regardless of the weather. Overall, she made a huge impact on the way her many grandchildren were raised.

Anita continued to age with grace even as her health began to decline. She

always handled adversity with a positive outlook and sense of humor. During her illness, her children cared for her. They cherished and supported Anita, the way that she had taught them and others to do. She adapted to changing circumstances like she had her entire life. When reading became too tiring she took up building jig-saw puzzles. During the pandemic she became an avid user of Facebook and Facetime. When many people across the world lost contact, Anita became even closer with her friends and grandchildren who live near and far. She is missed dearly by all of them, and many others.

If you wish to make a donation in her name, her two favorite charitable causes were the March of Dime Organization which works to improve the health of mothers and babies - an issue that greatly impacted Anita's life AND St. Joseph's Indian School which is a fully funded school that provides opportunities to underprivileged indigenous children living in South Dakota. Anita was passionate about education and the indigenous cultures of the American West.

Direct links to both charities can be found below:

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/giving/support-general.aspx>

[https://give.stjo.org/site/Donation2?df\\_id=6740&6740.donation=form1&autologin=true&s\\_src=tnd&gclid=Cj0KCQjwuMuRBhCJARIsAHXdnqO7\\_I8r7KLEJM SnaG97qMun2E20bErI9hsuhrFimNiqUCSmlzMshk0aAheCEALw\\_wcB](https://give.stjo.org/site/Donation2?df_id=6740&6740.donation=form1&autologin=true&s_src=tnd&gclid=Cj0KCQjwuMuRBhCJARIsAHXdnqO7_I8r7KLEJM SnaG97qMun2E20bErI9hsuhrFimNiqUCSmlzMshk0aAheCEALw_wcB)

# Previous Events

## Instate

MAR 19. 11:30 AM (ET)

St Jane Frances De Chantal  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310-2985  
(586) 977-8080

## Mass of the Christian Burial

MAR 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Anita O. Pitlock*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Anita O. Pitlock*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *Anita and I worked together when MCREST stayed at our church! She worked tirelessly trying to find clothes for the homeless. Her heart was so filled with compassion and love. She will be missed.*

**cynthia belotti** - March 19, 2022 at 02:10 PM



“ *UAW Local 1970 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



**UAW Local 1970** - March 18, 2022 at 06:24 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



March 17, 2022 at 08:25 PM



“ *Infinite Love* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



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March 17, 2022 at 07:59 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



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March 17, 2022 at 05:56 PM



“ *John & Nancy Warneck* purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



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**John & Nancy Warneck** - March 17, 2022 at 01:16 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



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March 17, 2022 at 11:30 AM

CF

“ *Catanzaro, Ferreira and Edmonson Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



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**Catanzaro, Ferreira and Edmonson Family** - March 16, 2022 at 07:23 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



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March 16, 2022 at 02:47 PM

KH

“ *Kathleen House purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



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**Kathleen House** - March 16, 2022 at 12:59 PM

LT

“ *Love, Gigi Gura & Donna Torrice purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



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**Love, Gigi Gura & Donna Torrice** - March 16, 2022 at 12:40 PM

KH

“ *My Precious Auntie You were the Heart and soul of our family and a guiding light for us all. Everyone who knew you became part of our family and through the years your family and ours grew as a result of the outpouring of your loving kindness and concern for us all. Everyone who knew you, loved you. Your life is a lasting legacy of love, commitment, strength and bravery for us all to follow. You taught us how to live and love and you taught us all how to gracefully enter into eternity. Never complaining and always hanging onto the positive. Right to the end. I learned so much from you that I will treasure forever but most of all I learned how to unconditionally love and forgive. I love you auntie. you left a very large empty place in my heart, but the wonderful memories are lasting.*

**Kathleen House** - March 16, 2022 at 12:31 PM

KK

*Kathy your words describe her to a tee. I don't know a more loving person than she. I wish I would have visited her one last time! Love her if she were my own mother.*

**Kathy Kostrzewa** - March 16, 2022 at 05:08 PM

CV

*My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs Pitlock. Mothers are true champions of their family, and I know all of you loved her as she loved you. May God bless her on the transition to Heaven.*

**Charlie Varney** - March 16, 2022 at 06:37 PM

LI

*Thank you for your support and kind words. ❤️*

**Linda** - July 08, 2022 at 10:46 AM

CF

“ To Anita’s family please accept our sincerest condolences. She has long been in our prayers and now you’ll be in our prayers as you deal with the grief of her passing. We have been Anita’s neighbors for 35 years, Anita and Jack were most welcoming and made us feel part of what was then an established neighborhood of long time residents most of whom were the original owners of the their homes. Over the years the neighborhood changed; but, Anita did not. Always welcoming and cheerful. Everyone loved her, our next door neighbor’s sons, who are now grown, refer to her as “Auntie Anita”. She was deeply loved. I will miss seeing her working in her yard, smiling and waving as we passed by, and always having an optimistic word to share. Although many have moved away, Anita remained the center of the neighborhood. It will never be the same. The love and support you all showed her in her final days is indicative of the love you had for her. She fought an amazing battle for quite some time and yet through her struggles expressed concern for another neighbor who was quite ill. Anita was a wonderful, remarkable woman. We are blessed to have been her neighbor, she enriched our lives.

*Craft Family; Janine, Charles, Mary and Anna*

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**Craft Family** - March 16, 2022 at 11:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



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March 16, 2022 at 11:07 AM

DD

“ *My Dearest Auntie, I love you with all my heart. You will be truly missed by me. You never forgot my birthday and would call me and sing a beautiful birthday song. We would laugh after and I would tell her how I could tell she was practicing and sounding great! I love you, Diane and Andrew too.*

Diane Dudek - March 16, 2022 at 09:04 AM

LL

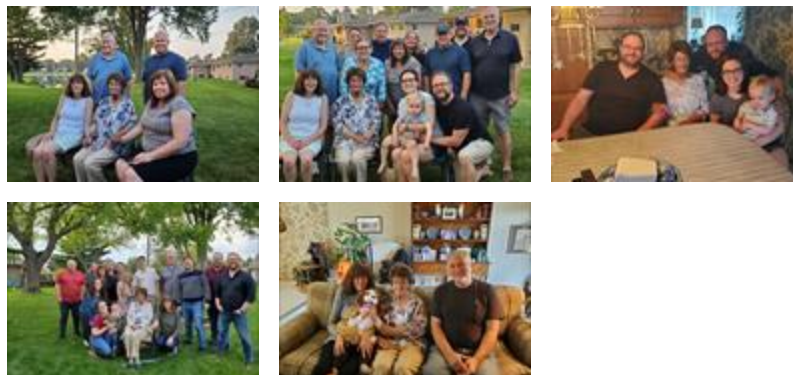
“ *Love, Mike and Elana Lanzetta purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



Love, Mike and Elana Lanzetta - March 16, 2022 at 08:53 AM

Vicky Velavicius

“ *17 files added to the album Family Pictures*



Vicky Velavicius - March 16, 2022 at 08:38 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



March 16, 2022 at 07:41 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



March 15, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



March 15, 2022 at 08:27 PM



“ *Tender Tribute* was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.



March 15, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Anita O. Pitlock.*



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March 15, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *She was my best fan for my art work when I posted on Facebook. A true happy spirit always with the positive attitude even in the last years with with all her health issues. She always welcomed Irene and I with open arms. We will miss her terribly.*

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**Don Vella** - March 15, 2022 at 07:13 PM