Anna Brajdic

February 13, 1940 - July 24, 2024

Anna “Anka" Brajdic, our mother, Anna (Baka to her grandchildren), was a wonderful woman. Her main focus in life was her family: husband, children, and grandchildren. But her generosity didn’t stop with the immediate family; it also extended to our cousins and our childhood friends. She was loved by many.

Anna was a World War II baby. She was born on February 13, 1940, at the beginning of the war in Rakovica, Croatia. Post-war life was not easy for her mother Mary, her sisters Agnes and Helen, and her maternal grandparents.

We often heard stories about how hard life was taking care of their small family farm in Rakovica. There was constant work: taking care of livestock, gathering timber from the forest, prepping for the long, cold winters, protecting themselves from wolves (yes wolves), washing clothes in the frigid streams (without proper shoes or clothing)…etc. The theme of Anna’s young life was cold, hunger, and being barefoot.

When Anna met Juraj Brajdic around 1954-1955, much of her life changed for the better. Juraj was the town’s master blacksmith and a successful businessman—popular, charming, and well-liked. As the story goes, he had an eye for Anna for some time before their romance truly began to blossom. He wooed her with candies, chocolates, and many other nice things that a

young girl desired. Most importantly, he would tell her that “she was the most beautiful girl in the village.” From her old photos, she surely was. Their love blossomed, and they got married in December 1957. They built their house, had three children, and worked toward their future. Their life as a family was grand.

Prior to the marriage, Anna’s mother and two sisters moved to Detroit to reunite with Petar (Anna’s father). The family was separated as a result of the war, and in October 1967, Juraj, Anna, and their children moved to Detroit to finally be reunited with her family. They embraced the opportunities of the American dream, striving to provide a better life for their children.

Detroit was different from Rakovica. Juraj went to work, and Anna stayed at home to take care of the children. They built their second house and made great friendships through the Croatian church. In March 1975, they became parents to their fourth child, David. One of their main goals was to give their four children a college education—and they did. Juraj and Anna continued to live a beautiful life until Juraj’s unfortunate passing in February 2021. They were married for 63 years.

Anna’s most recent gift from God was her three grandchildren: Sabrina (age 24), Miles (age 20), and Lola (age 4 ½). Her children and her grandchildren were her passion.

Anna loved cooking, sewing, gardening, and socializing with family and friends—she loved her Turkish coffee. Her home was always warm and welcoming.

She found joy in watching PBS shows, particularly those by painter Bob Ross and travel expert Rick Steves. She enjoyed the calming nature of Bob Ross (any other painter was fake), and Rick Steves had Anna traveling all over the

world to places that she could not even imagined. In addition, she enjoyed the PBS cooking shows. Anna even tried many of the recipes, bringing new foods into her kitchen.

Even though Anna left Rakovica in 1967, she never really left—always on the phone catching up and sharing stories. Since leaving, our parents visited their hometown about five times. Anna loved her America and Croatia families. On reflection, at times, Anna had a hard life, but it was also a life filled with love and friendships.

Anna is survived by her children: Mary Ann, Lillian, Damir, David, and their spouses: Paul, Scott, Ginny, and Lindsay. Her grandchildren: Sabrina, Miles, and Lola. Her two loving sisters: Agnes and Helen. Her nieces and nephews: Karen, Suzy, Krissy, Frankie, and Robbie, and their families. In addition to a dear “neighbor-daughter”: Nina, and her children: Tapinder and Tapvir (who also called her “Baka”).

Anna may no longer be with us, but her spirit and love remain. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who loved her. Anna’s life was a testament to love, resilience, and generosity.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd
Clinton Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **4**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Rosary

AUG **4**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Instate

AUG **5**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

AUG **5**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall

IS

Iqbal S. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anna Brajdic.

Iqbal S. - August 04, 2024 at 01:17 PM

LF

Love, Wilburn and Gerich families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Love, Wilburn and Gerich families - August 03, 2024 at 04:59 PM

LF

Love, Wilburn and Gerich families planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anna Brajdic.

Love, Wilburn and Gerich families - August 03, 2024 at 04:59 PM

TF

The Ivanovic Family purchased the Enchanted C ottage for the family of Anna Brajdic.

The Ivanovic Family - August 01, 2024 at 08:15 PM

KF

Karen & Frankie & our families purchased the Gr acious Lavender Basket for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Karen & Frankie & our families - August 01, 2024 at 03:09 PM

Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Anna Brajdic.

July 31, 2024 at 02:36 PM

DI

Demand Products, Inc. purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Demand Products, Inc. - July 30, 2024 at 07:32 PM

Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Anna Brajdic.

July 29, 2024 at 12:25 PM

Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Anna Brajdic.

July 28, 2024 at 02:42 PM

LN

Laurie Kathryn Nolfo planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anna Brajdic.

Laurie Kathryn Nolfo - July 28, 2024 at 02:42 PM

LC

Love from the Macut Family (from Canada) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Love from the Macut Family (from Canada) - July 28, 2024 at 12:46 PM

LC

Love from the Macut Family (from Canada) planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anna Brajdic.

Love from the Macut Family (from Canada) - July 28, 2024 at 12:46 PM

DH

Doug & Sue Hill purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Doug & Sue Hill - July 28, 2024 at 09:28 AM

DH

Doug & Sue Hill planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anna Brajdic.

Doug & Sue Hill - July 28, 2024 at 09:28 AM

DH

When Ginny married Damir, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet Damir's family for the first time here in Atlanta. With Damir being the son of a Croatian family Doug and I admittedly had wondered how this relationship between these two cultures would fare. The minute we met Anna, George and the family the night of the Wedding Rehearsal dinner, we discovered immediately they were the salt of the earth, a close-knit family who shared many of our own values and customs. We will surely miss Anna as we have learned so much about her Croatian ways, including what an extraordinary cook and mother she was. Anna left her Croatian imprint on Doug and me and we will never forget this wonderful lady.

Doug & Sue Hill - July 28, 2024 at 09:04 AM

TA

Toni Apostoloski purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Anna Brajdic.

Toni Apostoloski - July 28, 2024 at 12:10 AM