



Maria Elisabeth Balcom

February 10, 1929 - October 10, 2019

Maria “Mali” Elisabeth (Pinzl) Balcom passed away on October 10, 2019. She peacefully left us while holding the hand of her daughter Nancy.

She is known for always putting her children first. This was warmly felt by those who were close to her. She loved when family and friends would visit and treated these visits as the grandest of gatherings. All were welcome in her household.

She was a fantastic cook and loved to feed those that would visit. She was famous for her lively stories of her own personal life. She greeted all with the kindest personality. She was always warm and welcoming.

Maria insisted on being called “Mali”. To her granddaughters she was known as Omi. She was born on February 10, 1929, in Simbach am Inn in Bavaria, Germany. Mali had an interesting life. She grew up in WWII Germany. She was musically talented and sang and played piano. She won a regional Opera competition and was supposed to compete at the national level, but the competition never took place because the Opera house was destroyed by bombing. While she and her music teachers wanted her to attend the Mozart School of Music to become an operetta singer, her father insisted she attend business school instead. After finishing business school, she held various administrative, accounting and retail positions with the US Army and Air Force in Germany and in the US and also with Sears in Chicago.

While working for the US Army in Munich, she met and married Captain E. Rodney “Rod” Balcom, who she would say captured her (heart). Being a military family, they moved several times between the US and Germany until retiring in Germany in 1964. Mali had two children – her son, Ronald “Ronnie” Pinzl Balcom in 1949, and her daughter, Nancy Balcom-Moskalik in 1969. Ronnie was killed while a passenger in a car accident in 1966, at the age of 17. It was the biggest tragedy of Mali’s life.

In 1972, Mali and her family moved to Rod’s hometown of Coldwater, MI. Mali spent her time being a homemaker, volunteering at Nancy’s elementary schools and spending time with friends at the American Legion or having breakfast at Big Boy. After Nancy left for college, Mali moved to Fayetteville, NC in 1988 to be closer to a childhood friend and be near a military base. She enjoyed spending time at coffee-klatsch with her friends, doting on her cats, watching TV and reading. A few years ago, Mali moved to Cary, NC to live

closer to, and to be cared for, by her immediate family.

Mali was preceded in death by her parents Georg and Maria Pinzl, her husband and her son. She is survived by her daughter Nancy Balcom-Moskalik, son-in-law John Moskalik, and granddaughters Kathleen and Alena Moskalik.

In accordance with Mali's wishes, cremation will take place. The family plans to hold a private celebration of her life. Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or the SPCA.

Comments



“ I first met Mom Balcom in 1986. She always greeted me with a big smile and an enthusiastic voice that made me feel like I was great, appreciated, and welcome. She made me feel so special. As she told me, she always put her children first. She was probably talking about Ronnie and Nancy. To me, that also included myself and Nancy’s friends. To those of us that knew her, we were her children. She did so much for me that all I knew to do was to thank her. There simply was no way I could ever pay her back for the way she made me feel. Her love was immense and she touched all that were a part of her life. What she knew to do, was to give; and give she did.

To us that knew her in our High School years, she gave us a place to hang out and constantly fed us. She gave us a safe haven in those younger years, that now as a parent, I understand why. In college I was constantly provided with snacks that filled my dorm room. Being under weight, I may have been subject to a goal of hers to fatten me up. She was always there as a provider.

She was a fantastic cook and made meals that were amazing. She introduced me to Bavarian cooking that was out of this world. She would make so many cookies at Christmas that we would have to share with neighbors.

It is my belief that Christmas was her favorite holiday. She told me once that Christmas was for children. Thinking about this a bit more, she may have missed those times as a younger person. She decorated like it was the grandest of holidays and cooked just the same. Presents from her were amazing and wrapped like the professional she was. She was a provider.

Mom’s life could easily be made into a movie. There are elements of sweetness, innocence, war, survival, tragedy, strength, tough decisions, romance, laughter, and lots of love. There are parts that are hard to imagine knowing how loving she always was.

She often told people that Nancy was a life saving gift. The two of them shared a bond that I had never seen before. They could talk about and debate anything. Nancy was number one in her life for sure. She often asked Nancy for her opinion on things no matter how large or small. They did so much for each other.

She loved her grandchildren, Kathleen and Alena. She always told them that they were such beautiful girls. When we would leave Fayetteville after a visit, she would always cry saying it just was not fair that she did not get more time with her grandchildren. Mom was their second Mom.

Mom touched a lot of people’s lives and she was a pro at reaching out to people, to share and to ask. There were so many folks that have told me this over the years. Even today they tell me stories that Mom told them. Believe me, Mom’s memory is alive in many.

I cannot explain all that Mom has done for me personally. She has helped me like the closest parent you can imagine. She provided more to me than I deserved. She provided unconditional love and kindest. She would greet me saying “here is Herr

Engineer” and how she has been telling folks about her hansom son-in-law. See, praise beyond worthiness.

She was the best Mom and the best Grandma. She will be missed, but I will never, never forget her.

Thank you Mom for all that you have done for me and for us. I love you, I miss you, and I know you are at peace.

John Moskalik - October 17, 2019 at 10:07 PM



“ I did yard work for Mrs. B. Is what me and my kids called her. She was a very loving person to no. We would sit and have 30 min coversation s. She is a very interesting person and she will be truly missed. God bless her and her family

Michael Hemrick - October 13, 2019 at 01:18 PM



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