



Mrs. Virginia J. Rice

March 24, 1921 - August 24, 2017

Rice, Mrs. Virginia J.,
Portage, Michigan

A former resident of Saginaw, Virginia passed away on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at the Fountain View Retirement Village in Portage, Michigan. Age 96 years. Virginia Joyce Ewbank was born on March 24, 1921, in Delphi, IN to the late Edward and Edna (Avery) Ewbank. Prior to her recent move to Portage to be near her daughter, Virginia resided in Saginaw since the age of four. In her youth, she was a Campfire Girl for 10 years and an assistant leader for two years. Virginia was graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1939. She was married to Donald MacFarland Rice on April 4, 1945, at Ames United Methodist Church, where she had been active with the Youth Group for many years. Her loving husband, Donald, predeceased her on March 12, 2015, after nearly 70 years of marriage. She worked at Michigan Bell from 1942 to 1947, and spent the next 19 years raising her family. In 1969, she returned to Michigan Bell, retiring in 1988, after 23 years of service. Virginia and Don owned and operated the Cass River Nurseries in Bridgeport for 50 years. They enjoyed Polka, Waltz, Square Dancing and playing pinochle with friends. Virginia enjoyed sewing, crocheting, embroidery, knitting, broomstick lace, reading, and eating. She was a 4-H leader for 10 years, where she passed along her love of needlework, baking, gardening, and dancing. She was a member of AT&T Pioneers and she and her husband were founding

members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport, where she served on the Altar Guild.

Surviving are two daughters, Laura Rice, Portage, and Joann Rice (Larry Greene), WA; a grandson, Brent Nilles, Sanford; three great-grandchildren, Samantha Beebe, Kevin M. Nilles, and Crystal Nilles, Sanford; two great-great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Razrial; a devoted nephew, Allen Ewbank, and cousin Rose Rice; two nieces, Merlyn Ewbank Bidstrip and Peggy Ewbank (Elmers) Dobulis; and one sister-in-law, Virginia Rice Haas, Saginaw. She was also predeceased by her son, Donald MacFarland Rice Jr. (July-November 1946) two brothers Robert and Ralph and a sister, Martha Ewbank.

Funeral service will take place 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 29, 2017, at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc., 1218 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. The Rev. Amy Terhune will officiate with burial in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends are welcome to visit with the family at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc. on Monday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and then on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Memorials may be given to the Bridgeport Public Library or the Historical Society of Bridgeport. Memories and sympathies of Virginia may be shared with the family on her memorial website at WakemanFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Visitation

AUG 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
wakemanfh@charter.net

Funeral Service

AUG **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-8531
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Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Virginia J. Rice*

September 13, 2022 at 05:01 PM



“ *Mrs. Virginia J. Rice*

September 13, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ *Grandma was a wonderful woman. I couldn't wait to go visit her as a child. Still remember her teaching me her special way to make cookie icing. The secret ingredient is key. And then there were countless times of watching Sister Act 2. Or gardening with her. Just so much of everything. I love you grandma. Heaven gained a wonderful angel.*

Samantha Beebe - August 28, 2017 at 06:19 PM



“ *Many wonderful memories of Virginia. She carried Joann on her back so she wouldn't get over tired due to Joann's health. What a wonderful and loving mother. 4-H was an important part of our life growing up and helped to tie our community together in friendship. God Bless Virginia (Cogan) Shay*

Virginia (Cogan) Shay - August 28, 2017 at 05:14 PM

JP

“ John, Keen and Punky purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mrs. Virginia J. Rice.



John, Keen and Punky - August 28, 2017 at 12:56 PM

CW

“ I was blessed by Ginnie's friendship for over thirty years. Her beautiful smile was always a welcome site. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten. My prayers and those of my husband are with her family at this difficult time.

Christie Wainwright - August 28, 2017 at 01:13 AM

TB

“ She was a great person who would do anything for anyone; and a wonderful Grandma to my kids & me. An angel on Earth and now in Heaven. RIP Grandma Rice.



Tammy Beebe

Tammy Beebe - August 25, 2017 at 03:50 PM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Mrs. Virginia J. Rice.



August 25, 2017 at 10:15 AM