



Dora Pivk

June 16, 2024

Dora Pivk, dedicated mother, beloved grandmother and great grandmother, went to her eternal home early in the morning of June 16th at her family's home in Napa, California. She was 100 years old.

She was born in 1923 in Slovenia (then the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and later Yugoslavia), the second of eight children, and grew up in the small town where she met her future husband Tomaz. After completing her schooling as a young teenager, she left her home and apprenticed as a designer of traditional Slovenian lace. It was during those years that World War II changed her life with the German invasion and occupation. Because the Nazis discovered that she had been listening to forbidden radio broadcasts, she was jailed, but shortly after her release, she fled across the hills to Austria, where she joined Tomaz. They married in 1945 and had two children, Thomas and Andrea. Since they could not return to Yugoslavia, they were classified as Displaced Persons and emigrated to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island in June of 1951 and finally settling in San Francisco. This was their home for thirty years. They became citizens in 1956 and were always grateful for the many opportunities this country had offered them.

Dora held many jobs over the years, starting with house cleaning and working up to an office position at Macy's department store. But her real successes lay in her phenomenal baking talents, creating wonderful breads, cakes, and strudels and, of course, Slovenian potica. She was also an accomplished seamstress who could look over a dress or suit on a store rack and perfectly recreate it on her sewing machine. If there was any free time, she joined her husband in their garden of abundant flowers, fruit trees and vegetables.

In 1980, she and Tomaz moved to Napa to be closer to their son and daughter. Eighteen years later, she lost her husband to heart disease but continued to live in their home until 2015 when she moved to The Springs in Napa. The last decades of her life were probably her happiest. She adored her five grandsons, and in the last fifteen years, was able to spend many happy celebrations with her great grandchildren.

Dora is survived by one sister, Maria Jereb of Slovenia; her son Thomas (Sherry) and daughter Andrea; grandsons Dave Pivk and Jeremy, Brian, Jonathan and Christopher Miller; and great grandchildren Lauren, Evan, Leah, and Emma Miller.

Dora was a long-time member of St. Apollinaris parish. A funeral mass will be held at St. Apollinaris Church in Napa on Friday, June 28th, at 11am.

Previous Events

Mass

JUN **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church

3700 Lassen St

Napa, CA 94558

(707) 257-2555