

Irene Buckla Prokipchak

January 28, 1931 ~ January 3, 2022

Irene (Buckla) Prokipchak, age 90, passed away peacefully on January 3, 2022, in Draper, UT with family by her side, as her favorite song “Ave Maria” softly played.

Irene was born on January 28, 1931, in Olyphant, PA to John and Mary Buckla. She graduated from Olyphant High School in 1948, where she was voted “Most Fun Loving” of her senior class. She honored that title throughout her life. On September 30, 1950, Irene married the love of her life, William Prokipchak. She dedicated much of her life to her husband, raising her children and making her home a warm and inviting place. She loved the holidays and gatherings with her friends and large extended family. Irene had a lifelong love of music, singing and dancing, especially the Jitterbug with husband, Bill. After Bill suffered a severe stroke, she selflessly cared for him for 13 years. She had a strong love of God and her Orthodox Christian faith.

One of Irene’s greatest joys was spending time with her grandsons, Derek and Ryan. When the boys were young, they would spend hours together telling stories, drawing, using their imaginations, creating tents out of sheets and going on adventures in the park.

Irene is survived by daughter Diane, Albuquerque, NM; son Bill, Boston, MA; daughter Andrea and husband Greg Short, Sandy, UT; grandson Derek, grandson Ryan and his wife Lindsey, sister-in-law Anne Buckla and many nieces, nephews, and their children. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, William, sisters Anne, Mary, Helen, Julie, Veronica and Olga; brothers, baby Michael, Andrew, John and Charlie; and dear friend Murl Gibbins.

Our thanks to Beacon Crest Senior Living’s staff for their kind and loving care. Sincere appreciation to Inspiration Hospice, especially nurses, Austin, Allison and Melissa, CNAs Daniela and “Sweet Sue”, Chaplain Chris and Social Worker Mikenna for their compassionate care and support. Much gratitude to Father Paul Truebenbach and Father Justin Havens for their love and support.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, January 8th at 2 pm, with visitation from 1 to 2 pm at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church, 355 South 300 East, Salt Lake City, UT. Burial will be at a later date at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Cemetery, South Canaan, PA, under the direction and care of John J. Turko and Son's Funeral Home of Scranton, PA . Funeral Services will be streamed via Zoom for those unable to attend or wishing to attend virtually.

The family would kindly ask those attending the services to wear a face mask due to concerns of COVID-19.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church, 406 East 300 South, Box 253, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

To watch the previously held services, please click the blue "Watch Services" link above which will open the recorded services for viewing.