



followed in 1954. When Harry began commuting to Notre Dame to pursue his law degree, Rose Marie returned to Kalamazoo where she and the children lived with her parents. Rose Marie worked for the next three years while her parents helped out with the kids. It was trying at times during this arrangement in their lives, but Harry and Rose Marie would be the first to agree it was well worth it.

After Harry graduated in 1959 from law school, he and Rose Marie purchased their family home together just one block from her parents. Rose Marie then became a full-time mother as she tended to David and Catherine, and also the addition of Richard in 1962, and Stephen who completed their family in 1965.

Rose Marie made a good home for Harry and the children. Many memorable times were shared over the years enjoying the holidays, neighborhood and school events as well as their involvement at church. Their home was always open and welcome to the kid's friends and later their pool was an added pleasure whenever visiting the Contos home.

It was Rose Marie's delicious homemade berry pies that became her specialty. She was a good cook, too, but with her food allergies to milk, chocolate, peanuts, corn, and wheat germ, among others, she had to watch her diet. Always resourceful, when her family was young, Rose Marie liked canning from her small garden and goods she picked up at the local farmer's market. She was also a talented seamstress, making dress hats for church that she and Cathy wore. Throughout the years she made clothing for herself and Cathy, as well.

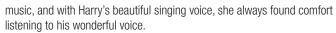
In later years, Rose Marie picked up the art of weaving. She loved weaving and even became part of a weaving guild. Always artistically inclined, she made beautiful wall hangings and blankets, not to mention her special Christmas ornaments. Rose Marie enjoyed the holidays where her family, now grown with families of their own, gathered. She went all out decorating her home. Rose Marie also collected baskets, and literally hundreds of them! She also collected sheep, which went along with her weaving. She acquired many stuffed sheep and figurines, especially those from designer, Tom Clark.

Having hosted many summer choir parties at their home for the St. A's Choir, Rose Marie was a gracious hostess, and came by it quite naturally. She and Harry welcomed all with open arms. Even though Rose Marie could be feisty from time to time, she and Harry genuinely took interest in the lives of others. They were the greatest companions, and complimented one another beautifully. They became great friends with several neighbors, and were always willing to lend a hand for anyone in need. Quite often she and her good friend and neighbor, Helen went shopping together.

For many years, Rose Marie played bridge. She was a good player, and took membership in a bridge group. She favored listening to church







During retirement, Rose Marie and Harry enjoyed a little traveling. One year they went to Greece, and after all the kids were gone, they enjoyed European vacations. She was an avid reader of mysteries, and when watching TV, she liked Murder She Wrote, Wheel of Fortune, and Jeopardy! Whenever she could, Rose Marie especially enjoyed having her grandkids over. Spending

time with them and watching them grow was always a source of pride and joy for her.

Following Harry's death in 2010, Rose Marie began living at Wyndham West for assisted living. For the last two and a half years, she resided at the Friendship Village Nursing Home where she sadly died. Deeply missed, she will be fondly remembered.

At the age of 84, Rose Marie Contos, of Kalamazoo, died on Friday, May 9, 2014 at Friendship Village, Kalamazoo. She was preceded her in death by her husband, Harry Contos in 2010 and by her sister and brother-

Contos in 2010 and by her sister and brother-in-law, Irene and Henry Longjohn. Members of her family include her four children: David (Lynn) Contos, Catherine (Robert) Metzler, Richard (Celine) Contos and Stephen (Pamula) Contos; seven grandchildren: Brian Contos, Ryan Metzler, Sara Metzler, Christie Contos, Alexis Contos, Lauren Contos and Timothy Contos; two great-grandchildren: Maddyson and Cameron; many

nieces and nephews. Visit with Rose

Marie's family and friends while sharing stories, food and drinks on Tuesday from 5-7 PM at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler-Kalamazoo, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo 375-2900. The Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday, 10:30 AM at St. Augustine Cathedral followed by a luncheon in the Cathedral Center. Private burial at will take place at Mt. EverRest Cemetery. Please visit Rose Marie's personal memory page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can archive a favorite memory or photo and sign her guestbook before coming to the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Augustine Cathedral or Friendship Village.





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