

## MERCEDES S. HOWE



It is with great sadness that the family of Mercedes Szarmach Howe, age 94, announce her entering into heaven, carried by angels. She passed unexpectedly, but peacefully while sleeping at her home on January 1, 2024. Her children have no doubt that she was taken by the hand and guided to heaven by her loving late husband, Norman.

She was the loving wife to Norman Foster Howe, her husband of nearly 72 years. Incredible mother to Audrey Watson, Barbara Wyzkoski, Carolyn (deceased), Donna, and Edward. She was loved and admired by her grandchildren, Bethany Wyzkoski Martin (Derek), Christian Watson (Tami), James Wyzkoski (Melissa), and Kirk Watson (Donna K.). And she was blessed with great-grandchildren, Ryleigh, Makenzie, David, Philip, Mason, Max, Lyndsay, Jordyn, Norah, Kirk Jr.; and great-great-grandchild, Ryder.

Mercedes was the daughter of Kwiryn and Cecylia (Jaworowski) Szarmach and was raised in Pittsburgh's Heron Hill Polish neighborhood with her brothers Joseph and Daniel. By her own account, she was a 'tom-boy' and loved to do anything the boys were doing. She joked that when she was engaged to be married, the neighbors asked: 'Who would want him?'

Shortly before high school graduation, she met her wonderful husband, Norman, while ice-skating at Panther Hollow. Norman was just home from the Navy, and as the story goes, he grabbed her hand and they skated away together, never to let go of each other. Mercedes never thought she would be able to marry Norman because he was not Catholic, but Norman won over her parents. He met with them one day to ask for their blessing, and when he picked her up from work that day he popped the question, saying: Will you marry me? You are allowed! Of course, she said: Yes!

Norman and Mercedes held hands through a wonderful life as they raised their family and were blessed with a great circle of friends. They enjoyed spending summers camping and boating on the river and had an active social life otherwise too. They were always up for a game of cards.

Mercedes always enjoyed crocheting and knitting. She called it her 'friend' that kept her out of trouble. She knitted hats for the 'Caps for Kids' donation, but she enjoyed making doilies with names in them the most. She recently surpassed her goal of 700 doilies. She was so proud and posted on Facebook that she was working on 1000! Her positive attitude was infectious!

The family and close friends of Mercedes are grateful and blessed to have known her, to have known her love, and to have loved her back.

Friends and family will be received to celebrate her life and share memories on Friday, January 5, 2024, from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the **GEORGE A. THOMA FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 10418 Perry Hwy., Wexford. The family will attend a private burial at a later date. In lieu of flowers, or donations, we request that friends and family consider doing a random act of kindness for someone to honor her memory.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](mailto:post-gazette.com/gb)