

CLAUDIA PIERRETTE GRAPER



Claudia Pierrette Graper, born in the heart of Paris, France in 1927, embarked on a remarkable journey that spanned nearly a century. With grace, resilience, and a heart overflowing with love, she left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her. On May 23, 2024, Claudia peacefully departed this world, leaving behind a legacy that will forever be cherished.

As a young woman working on a military base in WWII, she met an American GI, William E. "Bill" Graper and in 1945 at the tender age of 17, embarked with him on an adventure that would shape the course of her life, immigrating as a "war bride" to begin a new life in the US.

A devoted mother, Claudia poured her heart into nurturing, loving and guiding her six children: Judi Schroeder (Gary), Claudia Shank (Doug), Wayne Graper (Lori), Bill Graper (Lynn), and Rick Graper (JoAnna) and the late Pat Williams (Ben). Her unwavering love created a welcoming home where her children flourished, and her legacy took root.

As a devoted grandmother, Claudia touched the lives of her 17 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren as well as countless nieces and nephews. Her home was always open, and her arms always ready to embrace (and offer a cookie to) those whom she held dear. Claudia was an avid crocheter since she was a little girl and made sure that every grandchild had a hand crocheted blanket upon arrival.

A lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates, she is known for making a wide variety of homemade sweets, especially her famous "Grandma Graper Lady Locks".

She worked as a cafeteria worker at Carson Middle School, part of the North Allegheny School District, for many years, and she and Bill spent summers camping at Pymatuning Lake, sharing countless joys until his passing in 2000.

Claudia's devotion to God was a cornerstone of her life, a steadfast presence that guided her through every joy and challenge. At the remarkable age of 90, Claudia made a deeply personal and profound decision to publicly profess her faith through baptism, a testament to her enduring commitment to God.

As we bid farewell to Claudia, we find solace in the countless memories she leaves behind. Though she may have departed this world, her spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were touched by her love. May her memory be a blessing, and may we honor her legacy by spreading kindness and love in our own lives, just as she did in hers.

Friends received Tuesday, May 28th from 2 pm - 8 pm at **SIMONS FUNERAL HOME**, 7720 Perry Highway, www.simonsfuneralhome.com.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, 10:00 am, at St. Aidan Parish on the campus of St. Alexis Church, 10090 Old Perry Highway.

Friends please meet at church.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb