



# Mrs. Leona Mae Stone

MAR 4, 1928 - SEP 16, 2014



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Mrs. Leona Mae Stone**

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**L**eona Stone, 86, of Ravenna, MI, loving mother of five passed away at her home on September 16, 2014 with her daughters and her beloved dog, Sassy at her side. Leona was born March 4, 1928 in Bay City, Michigan to Claud Sevener and Mae Spencley. She was married on August 5, 1945 to James Stone Sr., in Wolverine, Michigan. Leona was predeceased in death by her loving husband James in 2006, her son James Stone Jr., her daughter Carolyn Schwartz, and son-in-law Larry Smith who each passed away in 2013. Having suffered the loss of two of her five children in 2013, Leona lost much of her will to live and her health rapidly declined.

After the death of her husband Jim in 2006, Leona was lucky enough to have found love for a second time with long-time friend Charles Spencer of Twin Lake, MI, who predeceased her in 2012. Leona provided a life-long example of unconditional love, perseverance and generosity. She was brave, strong-willed and quick-witted through long years of declining health. Family was the most important thing to Leona. She enjoyed gardening, vacationing in the Florida Keys and spending time with family and friends. Left to cherish her memory are her 3 children; Claudia Smith of Muskegon, Sandra Fowler (Kenneth) of East Lansing, and Paulette Shirey (William) of Ravenna, 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. The family wishes to acknowledge the caregivers who were with Leona during the final months of her life. They made the impossible possible. Particularly the family wants to thank Andrea, Cathy, Kathi, Paulette, Penny and Randilynn. A special thank you to Dr. Tim Beechnau and staff of Ravenna Family Practice.

The Time is Now

If you're ever going to love me,  
Love me now, while I can know  
The sweet and tender feelings



## Obituary

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Which from true affections flow.  
Love me now while I am living.  
Do not wait until I'm gone  
And then have it chiseled in marble,  
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.  
If you have tender thoughts of me,  
Please tell me now.  
If you wait until I am sleeping,  
Never to awaken,  
There will be death between us  
And I won't hear you then.  
So if you love me, even a little bit,  
Let me know it while I am living  
So I can know and treasure it.

According to Leona's wishes a memorial service will not be held. Share memories with the family at their On-line Guest Book at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com) Arrangements by The Sytsema Chapel, 737 Apple Ave., (231) 726-5210



## Tribute Wall

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AL

**Alan Leonard** posted:

Sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. Your family has our deepest condolences. Alan & Connie Leonard

September 27 at 1:51 AM

DA

**Donna Anderson** posted:

Leona was very special. We shared our losses together and later our joys. We had a lot of fun at swim class and Christmas party for seniors. I also remember her 80 birthday party. She was so witty and loving. She was a bright spot in my life. May God be with you at this time. Donna Anderson

September 24 at 6:28 AM

CB

**Craig Wendy Billman** lit a candle in honor of Leona.

Sorry to hear about your mother. They were great neighbors, even though they were across the railroad tracks. May she rest in peace. Vida Rusco Gillette

September 21 at 12:28 PM



CC

**Clara Cook** posted:

We're so sorry to hear of Aunt Leona's passing. She was one of a kind and the last of our older generation. I talked to her on the phone awhile back and had a lovely conversation with her. She could always make me smile. She always made me remember my Mom, those two were two peas in a pod. They looked just like each other and used the same expressive language. Lol. Our thoughts are with you girls and your families in your time of sorrow. Your cousin, Clara and Glenn Cook

September 21 at 10:16 AM

TE

**Toby Eyestone** posted:

Sorry for your loss, your mom was a great lady.

September 21 at 7:40 AM



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**Lisa Darcy** posted:

Sandy & family , Our deepest condolences on the passing of your motherTim says he has so many memories of your mother that go back 50 some years.We both were blessed with dear sweet mothers.May time heal our pain of there passing . Love Tim and Lisa Darcy

September 21 at 7:27 AM



**Lisa Darcy** lit a candle in honor of Leona.



September 21 at 7:22 AM



**Diane (Pollock) Avans** lit a candle in honor of Leona.



September 21 at 5:46 AM

**DA Diane (Pollock) Avans** September 21 at 5:49 AM

Claudia and family, I am so sad to hear about your mom passing. I cherish the memories I have of her and your whole family. May God be with your family at this difficult time!!



**Linda Pollock-Ganos** lit a candle in honor of Leona.

So sorry to hear of your mom passing. Holding you all in our thoughts with love.  
Linda Pollock-Ganos



September 21 at 4:56 AM



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MM

**Maryanne Maycroft** posted:

We will miss Leona very much. I first heard about her back in the 1960s when my best friend in high school moved next door to her. Alice would talk fondly of her neighbor who she referred to as "Grandma Stone." Many years later when Tom and I were first dating he took me to meet Leona and Jim. We spent many times with both of them over coffee (or something stronger) while they reminisced about the good times they had while snowmobiling. Leona was a very loyal friend--I knew right away that if I ever mistreated Tom I would feel her wrath--but once she knew that Tom and I were happy together and treated each other well she welcomed me into her circle of love. After we moved to Florida we always made it a point to visit her when we were in Michigan. We knew when we left her at the end of our visit in August that she was tired and ready to join Jim and Chuck. That does not lessen the sadness we feel at her passing. She was an unusual woman and loved by many--including the two of us. Our hearts go out to you in this time of loss. Rest in peace, Leona and may your family find comfort in the many memories they share. MaryAnne & Tom Maycroft

September 20 at 12:46 AM

MS

**Marilyn Spencer** posted:

i will miss leona dearly. i was glad that my dad and leona got to spend 7 happy years together. leona was just like a mother to me. leona is in a better place now. no pain, able to breath now and surrounded by family and friends. my thoughts go out to sandy, claudia, and paulette and the rest of leonas family. R.I.P. Leona. i love you.

September 19 at 8:45 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leona by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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