



Nikolai Tarasuk

October 17, 1924 - February 11, 2017

Nikolai Tarasuk was born October 17, 1924 in Medina, New York to Naun and Antonette Tarasuk.

Nikolai was raised in a rural country area and loved all of nature from his earliest days. He was a handsome child and a very bright student who was very close to his mother who spoke only Russian. All of Nikolai's older brothers left home to join the US Services in WWII. He too served in the US Military in the Navy, possibly the Army, in Communications and was stationed stateside in California.

Nikolai may have been the only brother to complete high school and was a motivated and scholarly student. He went to college at University of Rochester, New York and received an advanced degree in Education. In his early adulthood he was quite interested in world music and trained as a Russian Icon painter. He became a sixth grade teacher in Medina, NY public schools for many years until his retirement. He began writing poetry in his early adulthood and was published at one point. He was known as an outstanding and beloved elementary teacher. During this time he married Frances "Fran" and owned a few acres. He began to collect unusual, beautiful chickens, show roosters, and a variety of animals. Not really a farmer, he loved the beauty of nature and creatures.

Nikolai corresponded regularly with his older brother Frank. In 1952, Nikolai visited him in Washington, DC when Frank suffered a mental breakdown post USN retirement. He helped his brother begin to heal from his many emotional losses and war traumas by writing poetry, essays and fairytales for his children, Pam, Penny and Joe. Brothers Frank and Nick were deeply bonded throughout their lives. Nikolai periodically visited his mother Antonette, diagnosed as schizophrenic in 1949. She remained hospitalized at Rochester State Hospital from 1949, at age 40, after the death of her son, Julian in WWII, until her death at the age of 92.

Nikolai truly felt a calling in poetry and teaching. Whenever he visited his extended family in Washington, DC he took photos and shared stories about his travels, his life in LA socializing with Hollywood stars. In one story he described his epic bicycle trip across the Mohave Desert in his 20s as a wonderful adventure. He shared his interest in all world religions and philosophy with his nieces. After his retirement from teaching he traveled to Russia to visit distant relatives unable to travel out of that country. On one trip, he satisfied his long wish to carry his mother's ashes to be buried next to her sister in Ukraine, near Kiev.

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, at the age of 92 years old, Nikolai Tarasuk fell asleep in death at his home in East Chicago, Indiana. He was predeceased by his parents, Naum and Antonette Tarasuk; his brothers, Francis J. Tarasuk, Julian Tarasuk and John Tarasuk; and a newborn baby sister.

Nikolai leaves to cherish his memories, his nieces and nephews, Pamela Owen, Penelope Tarasuk, Joseph Tarasuk and Julian Tarasuk; former wife, Frances; step-daughter, Marianne; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Service

FEB **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

McCullough Funeral & Cremation Services (FH)

1621 East Lincoln Highway

Ford Heights, IL 60411

(708) 758-2880

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Tribute Wall



“ *Nikolai Tarasuk*

October 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM



“ *I'm sorry for your loss. May God comfort and strengthen you as you grieve - Psalms 46:1.*

G. Rich - February 21, 2017 at 07:18 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



McCullough Funeral & Cremation Services - February 18, 2017 at 01:26 PM