



## HELEN (McHUGH) PONTI

August 26, 1928 - September 25, 2020

Helen (McHugh) Ponti, 92, of Syracuse, passed away Friday September 25th at her daughter's home. Sharon was a loving daughter and caregiver to Helen. She was born in Susquehanna, PA to the late Harold and Florence (Flaherty) McHugh in 1928. Her family then moved to Solvay where she resided most of her life. Helen was the program director and taught arts and crafts at the Solvay-Geddes Community Youth Center for 25 years where she was known as "Ma" by many. She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Henry in 2014 and son-in-law, John Testone in 2010.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Sharon Testone, of Camillus; son, Richard (Donna) Ponti, of Virginia Beach, VA; and 2 grandsons, John (Kim) Testone, of Camillus and Tyler Ponti, of Richmond, VA; sister-in-law, Margaret Mallaro, and several nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Kim Testone and Patty Wager for the loving care they provided Helen.

Due to current travel restrictions, a Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date. Private burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Lakeland.

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME has care of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Hospice of CNY or Alzheimer's Association of CNY.

Please share online memories and tributes at [www.bagozzitwins.com](http://www.bagozzitwins.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Sacred Heart Cemetery-Lakeland**

Corner of Lawrence and Beach Roads  
Lakeland, NY

# Tribute Wall

BN

“ So sorry about “Ma” and Harry ! 2 of my favorite people at the youth center in Solvay !!

**Berk Neale** - November 04, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ HELEN (McHUGH) PONTI

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ Thank you to everyone for expressing such kind thoughts about our Mom. She will certainly be missed.

*Sharon and Dick*

**Sharon Ann** - October 11, 2020 at 05:00 PM

MW

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Mrs Ponti was such an important part of my growing up years between the youth center and in our neighborhood. I still look for her when I pass her home. Sharon, I know she will be missed by many in our community and lovingly remembered...especially by me.

*Mary Sue Santulli Walker*

**Mary Sue Walker** - October 04, 2020 at 07:38 AM

AD

“ When I think of the Youth Center first thing comes in mind is Hank and Helen Ponti. Such a dedicated husband and wife team. The Youth Center was a great place to spend your childhood. And what made it so great was Hank and Helen. Tony DeSpirito

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**anthony j despirito** - October 02, 2020 at 09:32 AM

FT

“ Sharon and Dick ,

So sorry about the passing of Helen . "Ma" had a tremendous early influence on my family's lives at the Youth Center and beyond . She was the glue of the youth Center very early on . She will be missed by all that came in contact with her.

*Frank Tropea*

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**Frank Tropea** - October 02, 2020 at 08:58 AM

BA

“ Dick and Sharon, sorry to hear about passing of your mom. Growing up in Solvay at the Youth Center created wonderful memories . Your mom was a warm and kind lady. All the best to the family at this sad time. Brian Aloan

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**Brian Aloan** - October 01, 2020 at 08:31 PM

LC

“ Sharon & Dick, you surely know that your Mom was a GIFT to the many kids who played at the Youth Center. I have so many great memories of Mrs. Ponti being her helpful and kind self... not only teaching us to play team sports, but also helping us navigate the drama. She was SUCH a great lady and she had a significant impact on so many of us. Your Mom was a blessing to Solvay families. Thank you for sharing her with us. <3

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**Lisa Cavallaro** - October 01, 2020 at 02:12 PM

TM

“ Sharon & Dick I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother. As her obituary stated she was known as Ma Ponti to so many us. She took an interest in our lives and her home was always open to many of us. I have countless memories of the times I spent with the Ponti family. She was a very caring person and our lives were made better just by knowing her.

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**Tom Mazzeo** - October 01, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ Sharon and Dick and family i was so sorry to hear of your moms passing. i knew she had been sick for a long time now. she was a great woman and will be missed by many.please accept my sincere condolences. your old lionel ave neighbor frank willoughby jr

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**Frank Willoughby** - October 01, 2020 at 10:17 AM

AS

“ Sharon and Family - I'm so sorry to hear about Helen's passing. She was such a fun and caring person to work with at the Youth Center. As I mentioned to you recently, working with your mom was one of the best times of my life. She made everything special! Love to you and your family at this difficult time.

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**Anne Sheffer** - October 01, 2020 at 09:13 AM

LP

“ Sharon and family,  
I have such fond memories of your Mom while spending a lot of time at the Youth Center as a kid. She helped instill in me a love of sports and pride in always doing my best at all things. A wonderful lady <3

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**Lynn Todeschini Przydrozny** - September 30, 2020 at 08:07 PM

DP

“ To Sharon, Dick, and all your families: My heartfelt condolences at this time. Aunt Helen was a special person who went through a lot. All of you have given her joy and happiness over many years; but none more than these past few. Your care and patience gave her time few get, and memories that you all will carry for your lifetimes. She is at Peace. She is Home. Eternal Rest Aunt Helen. God Bless You All.

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**Deborah A Ponti** - September 30, 2020 at 07:20 PM

JZ

“ Sharon, I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I just learned about it an hour again. I know what a difficult time you have had these past years, sharing in your mother's suffering. You were exemplary in the dedication, love and caring for your mother. She touched so many lives, it is impossible to measure all she did for the youth of Solvay as we were growing up. Her presence at Boyd school and beyond during my life is a memory I will always have. Please know that the love of your friends, and former school mates surround you at this time. Feel free to call on us if you need help in any matters. Peace and love, John Zwir

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**John Zwir** - September 30, 2020 at 01:06 PM

BM

“ *Sharon and Family,  
So very sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom! She was always  
so sweet to me and my brothers whenever we saw her at the youth  
center back in the day! You are in my thoughts and prayers! ❤️*

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**Barbara Mersfelder-Jacobs** - September 30, 2020 at 01:04 PM