



Maria "Mary" Maszera

OCT 29, 1937 - FEB 13, 2023



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 8



Maria "Mary" Maszera

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Maria "Mary" Maszera (Shpunder), born on October 29th, 1937, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on February 13th, 2023. Maria worked for Western Electric in Newark, NJ, before starting a family of 6 children with her husband Dmytro of 35 years. She later went on to drive a school bus for Dapper Inc. for several years, followed by managing the Ukrainian Community Center in Irvington, NJ, and running a self-owned catering business "Serendipity Caterers".

Maria is survived by her children Dmytro Jr (Toms River, NJ), Sonya McLaughlin & husband Brian (Trinity, FL), Michael & wife Kimberly (Tarpon Springs, FL), Yaroslav "Jerry" & wife Diane (Millstone Township, NJ), Anastasia "Stacey" Cline & husband Robin "Rob" (Clearwater, FL), Alessandra "Sandy" Penswater & husband John (Jackson, NJ), and 14 grandchildren & 1 great-grandchild. Maria was one of seven children, born in New York City, and is survived by siblings Anna Sivak, Vivian Chester, & William Shpunder.

Maria is predeceased by siblings Leonia Shpunder, Olga Shpunder, & John Shpunder Jr.

During her life she was very instrumental with the groundbreaking achievements of the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Hillside, NJ, and was an active choir member. Maria was very loyal & committed to raising awareness and keeping alive the notion of Ukrainian Independence. She spearheaded the exhibit of the Ukrainian Culture in Ellis Island, NY. Many of her accomplishments that brought great pride also included annual Ukrainian flag raising ceremonies at City Hall Union, NJ, and construction of Ukrainian parade floats in honor of the millennium celebration of Ukrainian Christianity. She was a Girl Scout leader for troop #472 in Union, NJ in her early days, enjoyed spending time with her "Serendip" lady friends and was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church Rosary Society, the Soyuz Ukrainok, and the Woodbridge, NJ Elks Ladies Auxiliary.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Knights of Columbus Ukraine Solidarity Fund.



Obituary

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<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/charity/ukraine.html>



Events


Maria "Mary" Maszera

OCT 29, 1937 - FEB 13, 2023

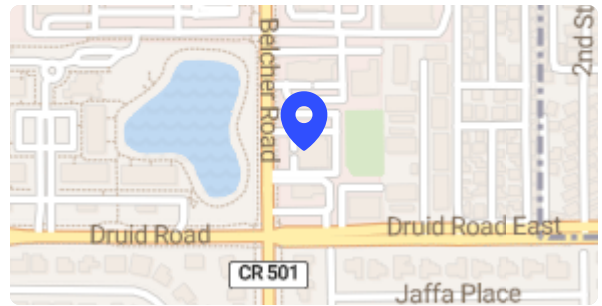
Visitation

 **Friday**, February 17, 2023

 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET


 **Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Clearwater**

693 South Belcher Road, Clearwater FL 33764



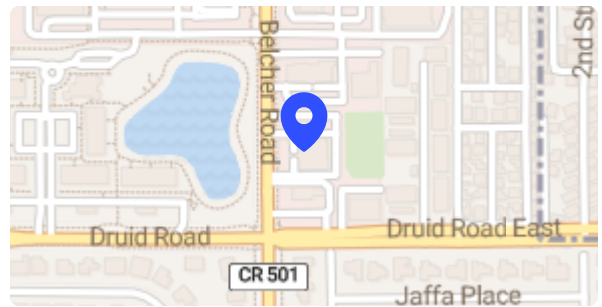
Panahyda

 **Friday**, February 17, 2023

 3:30 PM ET

 **Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Clearwater**

693 South Belcher Road, Clearwater FL 33764





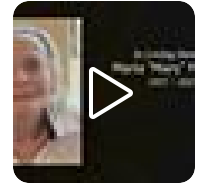
Tribute Wall

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Moss Feaster Funeral Home & Cremation Services shared a **Video**.



February 22 at 5:45 AM



Bill Shpunder posted:

Sister Mary helped to raise me. I remember her always being there for me. She got me out of trouble in high school and always had words of "wisdom".I remember great family dinners which she prepared at the Maszera home, for everyone and all the kids.She was a collector! I remember Mary coming to my house with a van loaded with " treasures". She was so excited to show me what she had collected. Trips to the beach, staying at the cottage were always an "experience".She touched so many lives.A wonderful mother to her family. She shares, a special place in my heart.

February 17 at 5:36 AM



John And Kristen Sivak sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Maszera family.



February 17 at 3:17 AM



John Sivak posted:

Aunt Mary, I have great memories of you and all 6 of my crazy Maszera cousins! Thank you for providing the house at the beach for illegal crabbing on the dock/pier. Thank you for the wide open yard in Colonia to let the monkeys run wild. Thank you for bringing the kids to Loriann Rd to skid down the big hill with half broken go carts to create life long scars from the skid marks on bare skin. Thanks for producing such great looking kids that keep me jealous. Life in NJ is tough for any family. Thank you for facing the challenge of 6 kids as a single parent. Rest in Heaven and tell Mark and Edward I said hello! Your nephew...John

February 17 at 2:59 AM



Sonya McLaughlin February 17 at 8:28 AM

Some hysterical memories!!



Tribute Wall

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CT

Cheryl Lefebvre Todd lit a candle in honor of Maria.

Sandy, I know losing someone so special is overwhelming. I am sending love to you and your family during this try time.

February 16 at 4:02 PM



KI

Kim posted:

Driving to NYC with Mary and Michael , shortly after 9-11, to see ground zero and visit McSorley's Irish Pub. She was known for mystery van rides. Get in and go wherever!

February 15 at 4:52 PM



Media

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February 22 at 5:45 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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