



## Mary A. Renkiewicz

May 15, 1933 - May 2, 2024

Mary A. Renkiewicz, 90, died May 2, 2024. Mary was the beloved wife of the late Richard W. Renkiewicz. Loving mother of Teresa (John) Guarascio, Ann (Mark) Kay, Joseph (Kathy) Renkiewicz, Nanette Renkiewicz & David (Cindy) Renkiewicz. Cherished grandmother to Christie (the late Edward) Fabinski, Philip Garbacz, Stanley (Denise) Garbacz, Lori (Shane) Davidson, Stephanie Kay, Joseph (Sarah) Renkiewicz, Jr., Kimberly Renkiewicz, Gabriel (Jenifer) Kay & Richard Renkiewicz and great-grandmother to Justin, Payton, Nolan, Ethan, Evelyn, Benjamin, Jocelyn, Abigail, Jaxson and Zachary. Also survived by her brother Carl Tierno and sister Gloria (Ted) Burzynski.

Mary was born in Sioux City, Iowa. As a child, Mary survived polio and a ruptured appendix, and after the care she received from nurse Sally Nassif, this is what led Mary to the career of nursing. The nursing classes in high school gave her a fast track into nursing. Mary attended St. Francis Hospital of Nursing in West Virginia, graduating in 1954. She stayed on staff until 1955, then moved back to Sioux City, Iowa where she worked as a staff nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital from 1955-1957. Mary's nursing career continued at the "OLD" Children's Hospital of Michigan, in January 1957 as a staff nurse. Mary continued to work part from 1960-1965 while starting her family. From 1969 to 1980, Mary was the Pediatric Nursing Supervisor and was instrumental when they moved from the "Old Building" to their current location in 1971. In 1980, Mary was named Administrative Nurse Manager and held that position until

1985. Mary's education continued from 1983 to 1986 when she earned her Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Services from Marcy College of Detroit and completed her Master's Degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Detroit in 1986. She continued up the chain of command to become the Director of Clinical Nursing from 1985-1997. But Mary did not stop there...from 1997 to 2000, Mary took a few weeks off, returning to CHM as a staff nurse 2000-2019 working on the Audiology Department performing newborns hearing screening. Mary officially retired from Children's Hospital in October 2020.

If life wasn't busy enough, Mary was a member of the CHM Auxiliary; was a member of the Hamtramck Board of Education where she served as Secretary and Vice President from 1976-1988 and again in 1990-2002. Mary also served on the Board of Directors for the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit from 1998-2000 and is still a member emeritus. She was also a Red Cross volunteer where she coordinated blood drives for the Hamtramck Public Schools from 1976-1985. Mary was also a vocational instructor at Hamtramck High School from 1974 to 1976 where she taught a Co-Op Nursing Aides program. All of her students during these 2 years went on to nursing careers.

A few of Mary's greatest honors were when she received the Sparky Anderson's CATCH Hall of Fame Award in 1985 for her dedication and Advocacy for Patients and Families and the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Distinguished Volunteer Award in 2002.

Mary was predeceased by her parents Rose (née David) Tierno and Dominic Tierno and sister Jeanine Keys.

Memorial visitation Friday, May 17, 2024 from 3-8 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (West of Hoover) Warren. Family and friends will gather at the funeral home on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 10

a.m. until a 12 p.m. memorial service.

NO FLOWERS PLEASE - In lieu of flowers, the family would be honored if donations in Mary's name were addressed to The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, MI at <https://rmhc-detroit.org/> or to Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation (Teaching/Education Program) at <https://yourchildrensfoundation.org/ways-to-give/>

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road  
Holly, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

MAY 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Gathering at Funeral Home

MAY 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Memorial Service

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MAY 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
[warren@wasikfuneralhome.com](mailto:warren@wasikfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I met Mary when I was an IRP nurse working in the NICU. I always looked forward to seeing her smiling face when she would come to do my babies hearing tests. She was so kind and patient even with the most rambunctious of little ones. You blessed me with your loving spirit and your smile continuous to be felt. God Bless.

Stacy - May 21, 2024 at 08:31 AM

RM

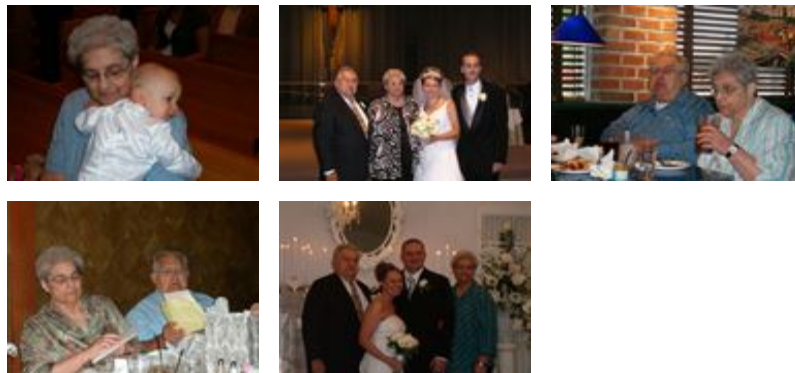
“ I met Mary in 1989, when I hired in at CHM as a Security Officer. Mary was kind and generous in spirit. Through the years, she never failed to stop and greet me or have a quick conversation. For all Mary has accomplished in life, she remained kind and humble throughout the years. CHM and all her were lucky enough to know her, will miss her.

Rochelle Martin

Rochelle Martin - May 20, 2024 at 09:30 AM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - May 16, 2024 at 11:10 AM

LF

“*Mary's dedication, kindness, intelligence, and calm nature will always represent for me the very best of healthcare at the Children's Hospital. I hope that at this difficult time, her family is comforted by many warm memories of this truly remarkable person!*”

Leigh Anne Flore - May 16, 2024 at 10:37 AM

SC

“*I first met Mary, when I was a brand-new nurse, in 2000, when one of my patients was getting a hearing test. Little did I know then, what a powerhouse of a nurse she had previously been and would continue to be, at CHM! She was an unofficial mentor, always a welcome face and conversation to be had, and an inspiration of what the profession of nursing should be. I will truly miss her presence on this earth.*”



*May God bless her abundantly, as she rests in Heaven, with the rest of the angels.*

Sammy (Sandra) Conoff, MSN, RN, CPN - May 16, 2024 at 10:21 AM

EV

“*Eva lit a candle in memory of Mary A. Renkiewicz*”



Eva - May 16, 2024 at 10:17 AM

EV

“ One of the nicest ladies ever, thank you for always making me feel like I was part of the family. Your work for children and the hospital was always inspiring and I admired all that you did for everyone around you.

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**Eva** - May 16, 2024 at 10:16 AM

PV

“ One can rarely think of CHM and not think of Mary. The two are synonymous. Mary was always a beacon of friendship, solidarity, and advice. Always an advocate for the kids and their families. Rest in peace, Mary. You earned it.  
*Pat Vario Sharon*

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**Pat Vario** - May 14, 2024 at 09:06 AM

DH

“ We had a gathering of some long time CHM docs, nurses, volunteers and parent on May 2 and Mary was much the topic of conversation. She will be missed by so many and the people whose lives she touched in her amazing 90 years are countless. Thank you Mary, you are much loved.

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**Dianne Haas** - May 06, 2024 at 03:05 PM

AM

“ Mary was an extraordinary human being, one of a kind. There will be no one like Mary. I am sure that each one of us who met Mary, feels that he/she had a special relationship with her. Mary can be described as an AJAATSHATRU, a Sanskrit word meaning the one with no enemy. Mary loved all and feared none.

I first met Mary in 1971 as a first year resident at Children’s Hospital of Michigan when Mary was the night Nursing Supervisor. Coming from India, I found myself in a culture shock. Everything was so different. Mary was a great calming influence on me reassuring me and encouraging me. She told me she first saw me in a cafeteria as a skinny Indian lad who needed to be fattened up. Two years later, during my Chief Residency, Mary was a godsend, helping me with difficult personnel issues at night.

Mary and I worked on many projects later in our careers, the most notable of which were organizing the annual Clinic Days program and conducting the CHM Alumni Association affairs. Mary was deservedly honored with the Distinguished CHM Alumnus Award. Even on her last day on this material earth, Mary remained in contact with the OGs of CHM Facebook group wishing people well and congratulating them on their success. I will miss Mary, my forever friend and advisor. God bless and Rest In Peace! 🙏❤️🙏

Ashok P. Sarnaik, MD

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Ashok P. Sarnaik, MD - May 04, 2024 at 07:42 AM

LC

“ I have known Mary for 54 years and have never met a more dedicated human being in her love for Children’s Hospital. She was universally loved and respected by all the staff and families, I have no doubt in the next few weeks her family will feel this love. I thank you all for sharing her with us and pray that you will feel comfort in our love for her. Thank you for everything, love you Mary!

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Linda Cotsonika - May 03, 2024 at 08:04 PM

MS

“ I met Mary in 1964 at the OLD Children’s Hospital. She was a great nurse and committed to helping children and their families.

Marilynn Smyth - May 03, 2024 at 03:36 PM

DW

“ Derek and Michelle White purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary A. Renkiewicz.



Derek and Michelle White - May 03, 2024 at 03:26 PM

DW

“ Derek and Michelle White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary A. Renkiewicz.

Derek and Michelle White - May 03, 2024 at 03:26 PM

PB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



pat bevier - May 03, 2024 at 03:23 PM

PB

“ *Mary was just the best. Such a great role model to the nurses at CHM. Just a delightful person who made working there easier.*

*My thoughts are with her family and friends.*

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**pat bevier** - May 03, 2024 at 03:20 PM