



## Vincenza "Florence" Malta Hawkins

November 25, 1912 - September 11, 2011

Vincenza (Pascaretti) Malta Hawkins, retired Detroit businesswoman and long-time Macomb County resident, died peacefully at her home in Sterling Heights Sunday morning. She was 98. Vincenza was the matriarch of a large, loving family, and a final survivor of what has become known as America's "greatest Generation."

To legions of east side Detroit factory workers she was "Florence." She and her late husband of more than 51 years, Vincenzo "Jimmy" Malta, operated several east side bar and grills for a flood of workers, many far from their homes, as the Great Depression ended and Detroit's industries came alive for wartime production. Jimmy, a native Detroiter, and Florence, whose family moved to Detroit during the 1920s from Pennsylvania, helped keep the home front going during World War II. Their neighborhood café, My Bar, at Van Dyke and Lynch Roads hosted parties and catered events during its nearly two decades of seven-days-a-week operation.

The couple met while both worked at Packard Motor Car Co. Later Florence and Jimmy dished up lunches and dinners for Detroit Forge, Dodge Main and Lynch Road Assembly workers who soon became their extended family. The Malta's raised four children while alternating 20-hour work days, on a seven-day weekly schedule and are remembered for their unfailing generosity and cheerful hospitality. The couple retired in 1965. Jimmy died in 1985. In 1987, Florence met and married William Hawkins of Foster City, California, while vacationing in San Francisco. It was a second marriage for both, and it lasted

nine years until his death, when she returned to Michigan. Surviving are sons Joseph J. and Elena (Borelli) Malta of Burlingame, California, Anthony J. and Frances (Barnett) Malta of Shelby Township, Michigan, Jerry P. and Marcia (Meldrum) Malta of Shelby Township, Michigan, and a daughter Catherine J. and Eugene Cecil, of Sterling Heights, Michigan. Florence had 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
[shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com](mailto:shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *"Aunt Cathy, Uncle Gene, Gina, Angel, Joey, Christopher and COREY, Mikinley and McKinzy, we are very sorry for the loss of your dear mom, grandmother and great-grandmother. I know she has suffered long and is now at peace with Jesus. She will always be remembered in your heart. You are all in our prayers. Love, Sarah, Sean, Emily and Ellie.##imported-begin##Sarah Sitarski-Rice##imported-end##*

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September 13, 2011 at 10:22 AM