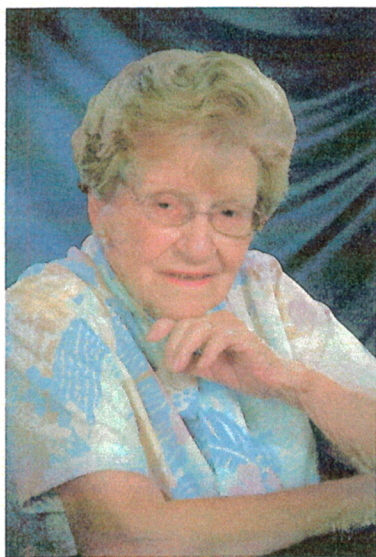


Madge Pontius

June 7, 1927

April 20, 2017





On April 20, 2017, an embodiment of tenacious, loving humility entered into the collective memories of those who knew Madge Pontius, 89, of Coral, Michigan. Madge's neonatal cries were first heard June 7, 1927 in Sheridan, Michigan, as the daughter of Aden and Goldy Verda (Case) Springsteen. She was raised on the family farm in Sheridan and graduated from the Sheridan Community Schools Class of 1945.

She got to know her lifetime sweetheart, Dude (Durward) Pontius, through an 18 month correspondence during World War II, encouraged by her brother Ed. When she and Dude finally met at the train station, her eyes “twinkled, her eyelashes fluttered” and they couldn't keep apart after their first kiss. They married three weeks later, with the warning from her mother that such whirlwind romances never last -- before Dude's passage in 2010, they shared 65 wedding anniversaries.

While Madge was employed briefly at Gibson's and Ore-Ida, her real work was with and for her family. Her daughters fondly recall the marathon shopping expeditions that were a hallmark of every Christmas holiday, and she let everybody in her family and circle know her love, even when called “medieval” in her discipline, and always with her secret recipe for pot roast at the ready.

Her music was an extension of this love, with hands that could find a keyboard in nearly any room of the house, and her artistic temperament expanding to painting,

dancing, and quilting. Wednesdays were frequently set aside for duets on keyboards and strings with her son David, who shared her musical muse.

Madge and Dude were both long time members of the Cowden Lake Christian Church and the Hough-Pontius VFW, where she was part of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Her passage was peaceful, having heard the loving appreciation and devotional words of friends and family, in the home that she had built with her husband, Dude. Her embrace of that location was an extension of her love of those 65 years together.

Madge will be remembered by many, but most deeply by her three children: Carol Hale of Greenville, Dave (Vickie) Pontius of Stanton, Anne (Jim) Middleton of Battle Creek. Her surviving extended family includes nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, one brother Harold "Hud" (Dorothy) Springsteen of Sheridan; two sisters-in-law - Helen Springsteen of Stanton, and Lois Springsteen of Sheridan; many nieces, nephews, friends, and her church family.

Madge was preceded in death by parents Aden and Verda Springsteen; her husband Durward Pontius in 2010; one son, Mark Durward Pontius; and two grandchildren, Andrew Joseph Hale and Nicola Marie Hale; siblings John Springsteen, Loretta Potter, Lorna Wolf, Edwin Springsteen, and Donovan "Mick" Springsteen.



