



# Tibor Zolnay

October 25, 2018

Mattyasovszky Zsolnay (Zolnay) Tibor. Passed away on October 25th, 2018, in Toronto, Ontario. The love of his life, Eszter Jeszensky, predeceased him on February 23, 2018. Tibor and Eszter led extraordinary lives and were the devoted patriarch and matriarch of their family.

The last of his family's generation, Tibor lived a long, full life. He attributed his longevity to keeping physically and mentally active, and always maintaining a positive attitude. Born March 8th, 1918 in Pécs, Hungary, Tibor was destined for a career in the family's prominent ceramics business, after having studied law and political science. During WWII, he led a Huszár squadron in the Hungarian 25th Infantry Division in the battle for Hungary and was decorated for gallantry. At the end of the war, he spent two years in Armenia as a POW, returning to Hungary in October 1947. The Zsolnay factory was nationalized in 1948, so he decided to risk leaving. He crossed the Iron Curtain and Europe to France, where in 1951 he embarked on a ship to Canada. In Montreal, he worked whatever jobs he could, while earning an accounting designation, and gained Canadian Citizenship in 1959. That same year he joined Dominion Engineering Works Ltd/Canadian General Electric with whom he remained until retirement. Tibor and Eszter fell in love in Montreal and married in 1958. Eszter was born to a noble Hungarian family in 1923 and spent much of the war with her first husband (Imre Tahy) in Berlin and Bern. After the war, while living in Paris, Eszter worked for Christian Dior and earned a living by designing and making accessories for the brand. After gaining a diploma in haute couture, they sailed to Montreal in 1951 with their three daughters (Katalin, Erzsébet, Dora) and two adopted children (Zsiga and Berta). There, she established a couture shop and later worked for Eaton's and Holt Renfrew, retiring as a buyer for Holt's many years later. Tibor and Eszter had three sons (Tamás, Gyorgy, István) and moved to Toronto in 1981, where the couple lived independently until Eszter's passing in February 2018. They were both proud of their Hungarian heritage and even prouder to call Canada their home. Eszter and Tibor are greatly missed by their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family, who have Eszter's many handmade textiles to remember her by. Tibor leaves us with a detailed memoir of his life and a history of his notable family. A memorial service and burial will take place at the Toronto Necropolis chapel and cemetery at 3:00 PM on

November 17th, 2018.



# Comments

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“ Uncle Tibor was the last one of our fathers generation and he left us now. I like to remember him and his wife when we accompanied them on their walks in Hungary. When we visited an old chapel, walked along the old paths or looked through a large locked garden gate at a house, that once belonged to the family. It always seemed to me that they were in search of lost time and lost homeland. In my memory are also the very interesting conversations we had which we remember with pleasure.

**Laszlo Mattyasovszky Zsolnay** - November 17, 2018 at 04:05 AM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Tibor Zolnay.



November 15, 2018 at 10:23 PM

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“ Tibor was a kind and thoughtful man. He was a historical treasure trove of stories and always greeted with a smile. We will always remember his war stories and specifically the one about potato skin soup. Thanks for sharing your wonderful stories with us and for teaching us along the way. The Delabbio Family.

**Delabbio Family** - November 14, 2018 at 08:17 PM

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“ I am privileged to be a small part of Eszter and Tibor’s wonderful extended family. I married Eszter’s granddaughter, Kati, and we have three grown children. Being half-Hungarian myself, like my wife, I would often joke that my children are 100% proud Hungarians! Eszter and Tibor had a profound and loving influence on our lives. Our children grew up spending their summers with them at their beautiful stone cottage near Markdale, Ontario. I will miss them very much forever.

Maxime Paré  
Toronto, Ontario

Maxime Paré - November 07, 2018 at 04:22 PM

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“ As mayor of the city of Pécs, where Mattyasovszky Zsolnay (Zolnay) Tibor was born, I was deeply sorry to hear that the descendant of this prominent and famous family died. The name of Zsolnay has been hold dear in Hungary and especially in and around Pécs. In 2010 the premises of the renowned porcelain factory and the living estates of the well-known Zsolnay family was renewed and was dedicated to culture with worthy tribute to the memory of works and lives of the Zsolnay family. Although I never knew Tibor personally, his death is a great loss for me and the people of Pécs. I send my condolences to all the family members.  
dr. Zsolt Páva, Mayor of the city of Pécs, Hungary

dr. Páva - November 07, 2018 at 05:12 AM

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“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Tibor Zolnay.



November 05, 2018 at 09:39 AM

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“ I am very grateful to have known both Eszter Néni and Tibor Bácsi. Thank you to both of you for being you; simply, happily, boldly. Your spirit lives on in us. You both inspired me very much as a child. And to this day. I loved going to their cottage and their house and eating the food Eszter Néni made us, and all the hand made piggies and rugs. I am glad we were together recently. I am glad to be related to such sparkling intelligent and creative people. I send all their children and grandchildren and great children a big hug of condolence and comfort. Viszontlátásra Eszter Néni és Tibor Bácsi. Köszönök mindent és a humor érzéket... Már hiányollak benneteket. Sok szeretettel, Szöke Zsuzsa.

**Zsuzsa Szoke** - November 03, 2018 at 07:06 PM

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“ Elizabeth Repasy lit a candle in memory of Tibor Zolnay



**Elizabeth Repasy** - November 03, 2018 at 01:43 PM

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“ I have fond memories of Tibor and Eszter . We spent many wonderful times together, summers at our cottage, holiday dinners and many parties at their house and my parents' house in Montreal. We will miss them dearly. Our thoughts are with you, Andrea de Gosztanyi

**Andrea Gosztanyi** - October 31, 2018 at 09:27 AM

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“ Dora Jeszenszky lit a candle in memory of Tibor Zolnay



**Dora Jeszenszky** - October 31, 2018 at 03:04 AM



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“ Miklós Jeszenszky lit a candle in memory of Tibor Zolnay



Miklós Jeszenszky - October 31, 2018 at 02:33 AM

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“ Nagymami and Tibor took me in 23 years ago and showered me with love, life lessons, and support. I wouldn't be the person I have become had it not been for their enormously important influence in my life.  
I miss them every day and forever.  
Best Nagymami quote: "This schnitzel's a bit African-American, but no problem it's nummy nummy"  
Best thing Tibor ever said to me: "I love you".

(Apologies if this posted twice).

Katalin Roughton - October 30, 2018 at 11:01 PM



“ Nagymami and Tibor will always be the great Couple .They will be deeply missed always .

Elizabeth - November 03, 2018 at 01:51 PM



“ Requiescat in pace!

Balázs Szily - November 05, 2018 at 01:24 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Katalin Roughton - October 30, 2018 at 10:49 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Katalin Roughton - October 30, 2018 at 10:44 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



kati - October 30, 2018 at 10:29 PM