



Elpida McLean

April 29, 2020

Feb 8, 1932 – April 29, 2020

Elpida died peacefully at Michael Garron Hospital Toronto, finally free from pain with her eldest daughter by her side. It was not Covid but due to Covid restrictions, the rest of her loving children could not be with her.

Elpida (née Apostolakos) was born in Sparta, Greece, her late parents Yanni Apostolakos and Evgenia Apostolakos (née Anastasopoulou). She was a determined fighter from birth - born with pneumonia (pre penicillin) and given little chance of survival, she fought through the fever to grow up with her beloved older sisters Dora Risou (94) and Litsa (Evangelia) v. Kalckreuth (deceased). She and her family survived the occupation of Greece during WW2 and the aftermath of an attempted Communist takeover.

Elpida graduated with degrees in Journalism and Archaeology at the University of Athens. In pursuit of her Archaeology degree she went to a dig in Italy and brought back one of the first Vespas to Athens, leading to merry a chase with police.

Elpida came to Canada in 1955 to write articles for an Athenian newspaper about her adventures in a strange, foreign country. To learn English, she worked as a waitress at her cousin's restaurant in Saint John, New Brunswick. It was there she met and married her late husband, Duart Oke McLean. They had 2 children in Saint John - Evgenia McLean (Ed Flanigan) followed a year later by Bill McLean (Cathy Ledden), moved to Toronto where they had John McLean (Trish). From there they moved to Raleigh, NC and then Palo Alto CA

where D. Christian McLean (Kathryn Baker) was born and finally moved back to Toronto where Elizabeth (Paul) was the last queen for their full house. She imbued her treasured children with her feistiness as well as a love of reading, history, cooking for family and all things Greek (think 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding').

Elpida will be greatly missed by her granddaughter Chelsae Petrovic (Cody), great-granddaughter Danika Petrovic (Clareshome, Alberta); step-grandchildren Jeff, Rob & Kristy Baker, step-great-grandson Ashtyn Petrovic; niece Annette Tabbara (née v.Kalckreuth) and her children Justus & Karlin (Berlin, Germany); nephew George Zolotos (husband of the late Désirée Zolotos née v.Kalckreuth) and their children Michalis & Danae (Athens, Greece), as well as the many friends she made over the years.

After Elpida's divorce, she learned new skills and worked in Data Operations first at Inglis and then at Aetna Insurance. When Elpida quit smoking she started to walk, spending many years walking from her apartment on Balliol to work at King and York and exploring Toronto's many neighbourhoods and walking trails. At retirement Elpida moved to her much loved condo in the Distillery and lived independently until a fall forced her to move to assisted-living in April 2019. She had many friends in the Distillery, they went to AquaFit together for many years followed by Scrabble at a nearby restaurant. After infirmity stopped her attending AquaFit classes, she met her friends twice a week to play Scrabble. It was the highlight of her week.

Elpida is now at peace, free from pain – in spirit back in Greece. She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held when circumstances allow. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Society of Canada or the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Elpida was our neighbour on the 9th floor of Parliament Square for the 12 years we lived there. She was indeed a force of nature and so true to her Spartan heritage – a warrior, but a generous and true friend and a great storyteller and so proud of her family as well. We became great friends as we went to Metro with her nearly every Friday where she restocked the fridge to make her simple but healthy meals – always horiatiki salad makings, and eggs and yogurt – and Haagen-Dazs ice cream - when it was on sale. Plus, always, her lottery tickets. In the latter years we always checked in as we brought her mail to her suite and spent some time chatting about the events of the day – she was an avid reader and devourer of newscasts and The Agenda, and always had a point of view on the politics of the day. As Shakespeare wrote – “Though she be but little she is fierce”. We will miss Elpida and treasure our memories of friendship with her. Our sincere condolences to her family.*

Sarah Hunt & Bob Kirk

Bob Kirk & Sarah Hunt - May 09, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Cathy Ledden - May 09, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Ledden - May 09, 2020 at 02:22 PM

NB

“ My condolences to the family. We often met her daughter coming to take her shopping or to an appointment. She was very proud of her family.

Elpida was a member of the “original residents club”. We have known Elpida since we attended those first meetings of the Co-op. Elpida played a major role in our community. She was the first chair of our social committee, organizing some great events and memorable Christmas Parties. Nancy thoroughly enjoyed working with her.

Elpida never complained about her constant pain; she acknowledged and accepted it. She amazed all who knew her. We shared a commonality with Elpida as we both had lived in Saint John New Brunswick, albeit at different times. We often reminisced about places or events in that City.

It is a loss to us and for our community at 39 Parliament . She will be greatly missed.

Nancy and Lester Brown

Nancy and Lester Brown - May 08, 2020 at 08:51 PM

CP

“ I met Elpida at the aquafit classes at the St Lawrence pool. The group when they dried off headed to the nearby Bistro(now Mom and Pops). The Scrabble games did not involve any money but often there were long discussions about a word that could or could not be used. I don't remember any fist fights but close maybe? Elpida would often tell us stories of her fascinating life in many countries, if there was time. I can tell you that she was the expert in adding up the points, never wrong! I was lucky to be at her 80th birthday in the Collins room at her condo! A tough lady! Her family will have many stories to tell about her in the future. My sympathy to all. Cathy

Cathy Pickett - May 07, 2020 at 03:36 PM

IC

“ Please accept my sincerest condolences for your loss. Elpida was my neighbour for 20 years in the new Distillery District condos and a kind and generous friend. She was a force to be reckoned with, as we found out in our weekly "Scrabble Card" games, and an indomitable spirit who never gave up trying to overcome her battles with diminishing health. She will always be an inspiration to me. Isobel

Isobel Collins - May 05, 2020 at 04:40 PM