



## Albina "Grandma Irene" (Zakowski) Scharlau

August 22, 1926 - March 28, 2023

Albina Irene Scharlau, known to many as "Grandma," was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother during her incredible 96 years of life. She was a long time resident of Mentor and wise beyond her years. She passed away peacefully on March 28, 2023.

Irene was born on August 22, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Edward and Aleksandra Zakowski. On July 19, 1947, she married her husband of 47 years, Ray E. Scharlau. Ray and Irene went on to have two amazing daughters, Sherry and Sharlene.

Irene spent many years as a mail carrier in the Mentor area and eventually retired from the US Postal Service. For several years, she was the "anchor" of her Monday night ladies bowling team, "Mom's Girls", with her daughters and friends. Irene truly enjoyed watching her four grandchildren in theater and musical performances and competing on any type of sporting field. She will be remembered for her strength, her resiliency, and the thumbprint cookies and snickerdoodles she baked every Christmas. Her kindness, humor, and stories will be missed by all who knew her and continue to love her.

Irene is survived by her loving daughter Sherry (Donald) Ostrowski; Grandchildren Thomas (Emily) Ostrowski, Trevor (Dawn) Ostrowski, Jackie (Richard) Ulm, Jared (Dijana) Jeschelnic; Sister Jean Weir; Great-

Grandchildren Mason, Ellie, Miles, Juliana, Jayden, Ruby, and Jazmine; and many nieces and nephews. Irene was preceded in death by her husband Ray, her youngest daughter Sharlene (Edward) Jeschelnic, her brother Edward Zakowski Jr., and sisters Joan Schmitt and Beverly Haslett.

A private service will be held for the family at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Please offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ Sherry, I am so sorry for your loss. I have so many memories of Shar, your mom and you. You all took me in to your family when I first moved to Mentor so long ago (1960's). I would have been lost without Shar. Again, when I got my job at the Post Office, Shar and your mom watched over me. I will always remember all of you fondly, good memories. Your mom was so dedicated to her family.... to be admired. Your mom and Shar are watching over all of you now. Peace and love to you and your family.  
Cindy (Koch) Wolf

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**Lucinda Wolf** - April 08, 2023 at 06:07 PM

LW

“ Lucinda Wolf lit a candle in memory of Albina "Grandma Irene" (Zakowski) Scharlau



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**Lucinda Wolf** - April 08, 2023 at 05:58 PM

DT

“ Irene was our letter carrier for many years. We always delighted in seeing her and enjoyed our brief chats! She was truly one of a kind. Godspeed, Irene 💜

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**Denny Tulenson** - April 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM