



## Valeria Cibicki

March 26, 1924 - January 21, 2020

Valeria Cibicki, née Waleria Zofia Perzanowska, passed away on January 21, 2020. She was born on March 26, 1924, in Lisznia-Krzemieniec, Poland, to Tytus and Anna (Stankiewicz) Perzanowski. In World War II, she secretly delivered messages to the men in the forests, who fought for the Polish Underground Army. During the Warsaw Uprising, in August of 1944, the German Nazis captured Valeria, 20, and her sister, Maria, 18, and forced them to work at several slave labor camps. The sisters bagged sugar at Zuckerfabrik near Braunschweig, Germany. They were then deported to the SS-Reitschule labor camp and picked up building debris, by hand, after Braunschweig was bombarded. Their next deportation was to the Velden ammunition camp in Bavaria, Germany, where Valeria and her sister filled shells with explosive powder. They were then transferred to the Weissenburg camp in Bavaria, where the Nazis forced them to clean up the bombed city. The sisters witnessed a number of terrible things at these camps, but they remained together through it all. The Americans liberated their camp on April 23, 1945. Valeria was forever grateful to the United States for freeing the people of Poland.

Valeria married Zbigniew Cibicki on June 2, 1945, in Weissenburg, Germany. They had four sons: Andrzej, Jan, Wojciech, and Tomasz. She worked as a seamstress at the Roksana Clothing Company, making beautiful clothes. Valeria was also a salesperson at a sports store and later, a secretary, all

while raising her four boys.

In 1987, Valeria visited Tomasz in Albuquerque, NM. When she arrived at the airport, she bluntly told him, "I not go back." She lived with him, her youngest son, and his family. Valeria's husband came to Albuquerque a year later and passed away shortly thereafter. On August 10, 1990, she married Wladyslaw Skiba and moved back to Poland, returning a month later. She divorced him in 1994. Valeria became a proud citizen of the United States on October 28, 1994.

Valeria came to the Wenatchee Valley after Tomasz and his family chose to move here. She lived at Garden Terrace and enjoyed spending time with the many friends who surrounded her. She volunteered more than 10,000 hours at Central Washington Hospital. She said, "America has helped me. I want to give back something of me. It's a small gift." Valeria loved the Wenatchee Valley Senior Center and her many friends there.

Valeria was an extremely kind, thoughtful, and generous woman. She sewed many beautiful articles of clothing and knitted hats, mittens, scarves, blankets, and sweaters for her family and dear friends. She was an amazing mushroom hunter, using them in pierogi for Christmas Eve dinner and in bigos for her son's hunting trips. She gave the warmest hugs and kisses to everyone she loved, whispering in each ear, "I love you so much".

Valeria is loved by her sons: Wojtek (Malgorzata) Cibicki of Poznan, Poland and Tomasz (Vicky) Cibicki of Cashmere, WA; grandchildren: Marek, Michal, Maciej, Sylwia, Katarzyna, Kamila, Phil, Michael, and Alina. She dearly loved her many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Zbigniew; sister Maria; and her sons: Andrzej and Jan.

\*\*\*The Funeral Mass and reception, previously scheduled for Saturday, March

21st has been cancelled due to the COVID\_19 pandemic and will be rescheduled at a later time. Thank you for your understanding.\*\*\*

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the community of Garden Terrace, 500 N. Emerson Ave., Wenatchee, WA, in Valeria's name. Chapel of the Valley, Wenatchee, WA, is assisting with arrangements. Please express your thoughts and memories in the online guestbook at [chapelofthevalleyncw.com](http://chapelofthevalleyncw.com).

# Tribute Wall

“ Eulogy:

*My name is Vicky Cibicki. I am Valeria's daughter-in-law, Tomasz's wife. Thank you all for being here today. It means a lot to us!*

*It's been a little more than a year since Valeria Cibicki passed away, yet we have such fond memories of her. Valeria was dearly known as Mama, Babcia, PraBabcia, Mrs. C., Val and Lalka. Lalka is a term of endearment given by her sister, which means doll. And that she was, she was a doll! She had such a kind and gentle heart. I don't recall her ever being angry. She was so strong. At age 65, she left the one home she knew, Poznan, Poland, and journeyed across the ocean, without her husband and only one luggage to her name, landing in Albuquerque, NM in 1987. She said at the airport, "I not go back" and the new phase of her life began! Her husband, Zbigniew, arrived 3 months later, but died of a heart attack at our home within the year.*

*Mama's strength came from her Second World War experiences. She delivered messages secretly to the Polish Underground Army, showing us how she did it...with the tiny paper messages rolled up under her ring. When the Nazis captured Valeria and her sister, Myszka (which means mouse), they forced them to work in four labor camps, picking up debris after cities were bombed, filling explosive powder into shells for Nazi ammunition and filling bags with sugar for the Nazis. She was defiant even when she could have been severely punished, peeing into the sugar bags every once in a while! Such bravery! Her most powerful memory she shared with us was winter of 1944 when her fellow prisoners on Christmas eve huddled together in a cold barn with their tattered clothing, around a small evergreen tree someone brought in. Slave laborers were from Italy, Germany and Poland and they sang Christmas songs in their own languages and each recited the Our Father in their language. She was so ecstatic when the Americans freed their camp in April 1945 and is forever grateful to those American soldiers. With her traumatizing war experiences and life under Communist Poland, she was very politically active in the*

*United States in her own small way and loved her freedom to voice her opinion without fear of retaliation or punishment or being reported by a neighbor or friend. She was a strong opponent of socialism and Communism. She was opposed to abortion and was very pro-life. She respected the life of every individual. She saw much death as the Nazis infiltrated Poland and she believed that all life was sacred, even if not yet born.*

*Tomasz's memories of her are full of kindness and happiness. As a 9-year-old, mama would take him on a trolley to attend the Poznan operas. She took him on organized mushroom hunts through her husband's work to find borowiks and kurki mushrooms, known here as the King Bolete and golden chanterelles. His mom was never angry at him, always acting as the mediator between Tomasz and his dad. She was so sad to see her youngest son leave Poland during the Solidarnocsz uprising, yet she remained strong and connected with him, even celebrating our wedding with family in Poland. Tomek and mama had such a loving relationship, there was so much laughter shared between them. Mama's nightly phone calls, her check in, has been sorely missed.*

*Our son, Michael, also mentioned the many phone calls he would get from Babcia. He said, "The phone calls were never long and they were usually asking if I knew where "Daddy" was, but always ended with her saying "I love you, Michael, kochanie". He added, "I would pick up, because if I didn't, I'd get two more calls in short succession. The few times I did miss those calls though, she'd leave a voicemail, and for that I am forever grateful. I still have a few saved that I like to listen to when I think of her."*

*Mama was so helpful in our household. As we both worked, she helped raise our children, Phil, Michael and Alina, by taking them on walks, cooking with them and just loving them. Her love continued on with her great-grandchildren. Little Nolan loved being hugged and cuddled by his PraBabcia. Mama would greet all of us with such warm hugs always saying kochanie (which means loved one) and whisper in our ears when she left, "I love you so much!"*

*Valeria was an amazing cook, treating us to such fine feasts of kluski, bigos, golambki, mushroom soups and sauces, beet dishes, red cabbage and her infamous pierogi. She took first place in the Spam competition at the New Mexico State Fair for her Spam pierogi! She always asked how she could help around the house, sweeping the kitchen floor or back porch, dicing and slicing veggies, peeling potatoes, doing dishes, trimming the bushes outside, picking blueberries or raspberries.*

*Mama was always present at our family gatherings. She was a staple at every birthday, every Thanksgiving, and every Christmas. We cherished the passing of the oplatek at our Christmas Eve vigilia. Little bits of blessed wafer placed in our hands or on our tongue with a special loving message from mama.*

*Mama was quite the knitter. Such perfection. She made hats, vests, scarves, mittens, slippers, and balaclavas. At the age of 95, she was so sharp, her counting and measuring skills amazing. Her granddaughter, Alina, and Alina's husband, Cole, lucked out a couple of Christmas' ago when she presented them their present. Matching hats, appropriately sized, for both of them, with matching mittens, for each day of the week. It was quite the box! Her seamstress skills were amazing, making my sister's graduation dress, another sister's wedding dress, many embroidered shirts for my folk dancing performances. As she was waiting to come to America, she embroidered linen table runners, napkins and place mats for us. She was a true artist.*

*We will remember Valeria's endless laughter and happiness, her beautiful black hair (it didn't gray until about 10 years ago), her unwrinkled face (it's the nightly Nivea application), her rosy cheeks, and her positive outlook on life.*

*There were so many people that Valeria quietly touched in her life. She loved us all!*

*We have a memorial table set up with some of the beautiful items she created, even a few unfinished knitting projects. We also placed*

*a ceramic bowl on the table, so please take an empty page and write a memory of Valeria and leave it in the bowl or give to one of her family members. It would mean so much to us if you shared a memory or two with us or you can still go online at the Chapel of the Valley web page. Thank you for your incredible strength and support shown to our family, and for honoring Valeria's life! Death separates us, but the memories remain strong!*

---

**Vicky Cibicki** - February 16, 2021 at 03:41 PM

MC

“ *Babcia was always there. She's was a staple of every of birthday, every thanksgiving, and every Christmas that I can remember.*

*We were lucky to share so many great Polish meals with Babcia and get so many amazingly knitted hats for the whole family. Growing up I remember Babcia always working, always cooking, and always cleaning. I know she must have been a great help for my parents. She would spend all day making kluski or pierogi, which were both so delicious.*

*Its the phone calls I'd get from Babcia that I remember and miss the most. They were never long and they were usually asking if I knew where "Daddy" was but always ended with her saying "I love you Michael kochanie". It was another reminder that Babcia was there and always a happy beacon. I would pick up, because if I didn't, I'd get two more calls in short succession. The few times I did miss those calls though she'd leave a voicemail, and for that I am grateful. I have a few saved that I like to listen to when I think of her.*

---

**Michael Cibicki** - February 12, 2021 at 09:12 PM

JL

“ *Valeria was an amazing woman! What an interesting life she had! I remember seeing her walk along the Wenatchee loop trail with her walker. She was always cheerful, friendly, and happy to see me! So independent!*

*I am so glad we were able to get together for a spontaneous dinner on our porch last summer!*

*Jill LaRue*

---

**Jill LaRue** - March 22, 2020 at 12:36 AM

CW

“ *I used to sit next to Valeria at church ( Calvary Crossroads) Her Bible was in Polish and mine was in Spanish!*

*I often saw her on my lunch walks near Garden Terrace. She was very sweet and will be missed.*

---

**Carol De Wolf** - February 02, 2020 at 11:07 AM

GQ

“ *Tomasz, So sorry for your loss. Your mom was so lovingly cared for by you...I esp loved that she loved life and was kind and caring to everyone she met. She is now in God's hands. Hugs, Gina*

---

**Gina Quinn** - January 28, 2020 at 06:47 PM

GQ

“ *The Quinn's are SO grateful to have known and spent time with Mrs. C during numerous family gatherings. She was kind-hearted, gracious, hard-working and "spirited". She rarely complained....and she lived simply. Mrs. C was dearly loved and admired! Gina*

---

**Gina Quinn** - January 27, 2020 at 06:15 PM