

Mirjana Ljubenkovic

April 7, 1925 - September 7, 2019

Mirjana Ljubenkovic, 94, a resident of Florida since July 2004 coming from Newark, NJ, passed away on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Advent Health in Wauchula, Florida. Mirjana was born in Bela Crkva, Yugoslavia on April 7, 1925.

She had been a member of the Greek Orthodox Church and had been a homemaker most of her life.

She is survived by her grandson Alexander Shah of Fort Myers, Fl. Close family friends Dr. Daniella Weinberger, Dr. Iva Bozovic, Gail Miller, Dr. David Aitken, Nicholas Irra, Officer Josh Sorensen, Liliana Markanovic, Radisa Bogdanovic, Karen Liehan and Sarah Morales.

Mirjana was a widow of Engineer Bogdan Ljubenkovic for 61 years and together they travelled all around the world on projects for economic development. Mirjana was of Serbian-Romanian heritage born in the Danubian Region of Vojvodina in the beautiful fertile South-Hungarian plain. Mirjana worked tirelessly all her life for the benefit of her family and friends, as the pillar of the Ljubenkovic Family. Granny was extremely committed and deeply loving of her grandson Alex and her daughter Svetlana. The only living family left now Alexander Ljubenkovic Shah, her loving and grieving grandson,

who is inconsolable and carries her in his heart. Mirjana was a practical person and historian by interest who supported the education and studies of her daughter and grandson. She moved to America after the 1999 Clinton War on Serbia over Kosovo to help her daughter fight cancer and to escape danger, her son-in-law called Mirjana "A true war mom" in praise. For the past 20 years, Mirjana was living together with her grandson Alex; out of those years, the last 14 were spent alone with Alex after her daughter and husband passed away from cancer. Mirjana is the love of the life of her devoted grandson, and he will miss her terribly in the coming years. Mirjana's hobbies were family photography, books of novels, family themed tv-series, cooking and women's issues magazines and great cooking and housekeeping of her own. Mirjana was a land management office secretary when she met her future husband during the war in 1944. She left her career to take care of the new family unit she founded with Bogdan. She readily helped anyone in need. Mirjana was fond of saying: "Take care of your own first before anyone else because priorities in life are a number one priority." Mirjana's magical charm and voice will be sorely missed. I lost gold; I lost the Gold of My Life. The magic golden shine of Relativistic speeds at the most fundamental level of existence that still could smile at me and was thus even higher than Gold as Love stands supreme.

Written with Love By: Alexander Shah

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **19**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Robarts Family Funeral Home
529 West Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873

Tribute Wall

JK

“ To my dear spiritual brother Alexander,

Heartfelt condolences to you for the loss of your granny. I recall a few stories of you and her that I read from our social media exchanges. Some say it is our memories of these stories by which one lives on after one passes, and I do believe this to be true. I also remember pictures of your granny in which she always exuded a strong, stern character in her facial expression. The kind of expression characteristic of those from past generations who came out victorious in the struggle of existence. The memories of her last years with you two together must be so very precious. Farewell Mirjana Ljubenkovic.

Justin Kopp - April 14, 2021 at 01:43 PM

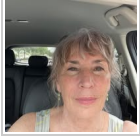
GH

“ My dear Alex,

Please forgive me for taking too long to write this message, due not only to my inherent and maddening slowness, but to my feeling inadequate to say anything truly meaningful enough to honor this outstandingly beautiful, strong, courageous woman who was your grandmother, counselor and companion. You have inspired me with her story and I am sad that having know your dear beautiful mother, I was never to have the privilege of meeting her mother, your beautiful grandmother. Knowing what a terrible loss this is for you and how little any words of mine can comfort you now, I pray for you in your sorrow and my deepest, warmest sympathy and love go with you always.

*Faithfully and fondly,
Gail Miller*

Gail hoMiller - December 15, 2019 at 10:43 PM



“ *Mira is a beautiful soul. While living amongst us she loved and was loved. She showed that open hearted spirit through kind acts and words. During her life Mira proved the strength to endure some of the worst of humankind.*

She used those experiences to be an even better person. I will always fondly remember the compassionate demeanor and welcoming nature of this lovely woman. God bless you, Mira.

Peggy Chiara - December 01, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ *Although I only met Mrs. Ljubenkovic one time, she impressed me as a truly lovely and kind-hearted woman. Her character shines through in her grandson, Alex, who likewise exemplifies kindness, graciousness, intelligence, and manners that most of this world sadly seems to have forgotten. Mrs. Ljubenkovic obviously did a wonderful job in helping to raise her grandson, and although she has left an empty spot in this earthly world, Heaven is now enriched by her presence there.*

L. M. Vagner - October 17, 2019 at 01:04 PM

NI

“ Dear Alexander,

Please know that I am thinking of you during this difficult time. Although I never got the chance to meet your grandmother, I remember you speaking fondly of her and her life. I know that your grandmother meant the world to you, and you to her. Know she will always be a part of your heart. I know that you were a loving grandson, dedicated to her, and that with her love and nurturing, she helped you to become the man you are today.

Truly, Mirjana was a kind soul. May she rest in peace. Her memory will always live on through you. I hope that time will help you heal and bring you peace. Know that I am your friend and am here for you.

Keeping you in my prayers,

Nicholas

Nicholas - October 15, 2019 at 07:53 PM

AM

“ A poem for Alexander from grandma

I am home in Heaven, Dear one

Oh, so happy and so bright!

There is perfect joy and beauty

In this everlasting light

All the pain and grief is over,

Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever,

Safely home in Heaven at last

Did you wonder I so calmly

Trod the valley of the shade?

Oh ! but Jesus lives illumined

Every dark and fearful glade.

And He comes Himself to me

In that way so hard to meet me

In and with Jesus arm to lean on.

Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely!

Pray to trust our Fathers will

There is work still waiting for you!

So you must not idly stand

Do it now, while life remained

You shall rest in Jesu Land

When That work is all completed

He will gently call you home

Oh the rapture of that meeting

Oh the joy to see you come!!

(This is from my bible.)

Sasha, granny was your everything in this world!

Mom, grandpa, and especially granny was your teacher of life and life's roads, with patience for your correct as well as incorrect choices.

I have read through everything you wrote about granny slowly and down to the last word and comma sign, which came from your heart and the rolling tear behind your words written for her.

I have sincerely said my prayers for your granny's transition from this world into the next, the better world, the one above. And I haven't forgotten you either; let the One above give you the strength for the future!!!

You have my deepest condolences!

*Sasha, baka je bila tvoje sve na svijetu!
Mama, tata, deedo, a najviše baka, tvoja učiteljica životnog puta i
strpljenja prema tvojim pravim i krivim putevima.*

*Procitala sam sve do kraja polako i sa srcem svaku rječ svaki zarez,
sa osjećajem i sa suzom koja je protekla sa tvojim rječima koje si
napisao za nju.*

Moja duboka sućut prijatelju!

*Iskreno rekla sam molitvu za njenu tranziciju sa ovog svijeta u bolji,
onaj gore.*

*A nisam ni tebe zaboravila, da ti onaj gore dade snage za
budućnost !!!*

Anka Maricevic

Anka Maricevic - September 26, 2019 at 11:25 PM

KL

“ *Just wanted to say stay strong reach out when the sadness is to
much you will get thru this alex your grandma is still with you always
and she lives on through you i know you will make her so proud of
your life to come you were a great grandson and never left her side
we are all here for you your work family one day at a time looking
foreward to hearing more storys about her*

Karen lihan - September 26, 2019 at 08:33 AM

LM

“ *Mrs. Mirjana was extraordinary woman with tender heart big enough for every soul.*

She will be greatly missed, her spirit will always be with one she loves the most, her grandson Sasha.

In Eastern orthodox Church we never die, we just move from life on earth to eternal life in heaven.

Let her soul rest in peace.

from

Ljiljana Rovcanin Markanovic

Ljiljana Rovcanin Markanovic - September 21, 2019 at 06:50 PM

DA

“ *Mirjana was welcoming and kind, her wish always for everyone to stay and spend time with the family. So gracious and giving of herself and her home, you could not help but feel the warmth of the old country. Alex often mentioned how much she had influenced him in his life and having been fortunate enough to have spent time with them together, I know this to be true. A rare individual indeed. She will be missed but her spirit always remembered.*

David Aitken - September 20, 2019 at 12:21 AM

SL

“ Alex and Family,

Don't expect much from yourself right now, it is ok to cry and be upset that your grandmother is now watching over you from heaven. When you love someone for so long, well practically your entire life, it is only natural to feel the pain and loss of someone you looked up to and took care of for so long. You will prob feel that way for a few weeks so don't try to rush it and don't feel like you have to "get over it"...don't try to kid yourself, bc you never will. As the days go by, they turn into months, and it is with that passing of time you learn how to cope. You also learn your grandmother would not want you in any way to stop living bc she is no longer with us, but rather she would want you to do things that she had hoped you would, or is not around to see you do but still wants you to live your life's dreams. Remember, even though you cannot see her with your eyes does not mean she is no longer watching over you and loving you. You will continue to honor and love your grandmother just as you would if she was still here on earth. For isn't it she would say "...priorities in life are your number one priority"? As you get up out of bed each day, remind yourself of that and instead of spending your years crying that she is no longer here, spend your time doing something to honor her. One day you will see her again and you can tell her all the things you did bc of your love for her, and that smile she gives you will warm your heart.

Shawna Lambert - September 18, 2019 at 09:24 AM

MR

“ Dear Granny,

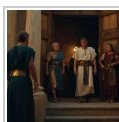
I will always think of you as a sweet, kind, intelligent, and tough lady from the old world who fearlessly faced life in a new land and brought a smile to those whose lives you passed through.

I am one of those who got to know you through the words of your beloved grandson Alex with whom you shared an inseparable bond. If there's a heaven above us, I know you are watching over him as you did in life. No matter what, you live on in the souls of all of us who love you.

I will never forget you dear lady.

-Maya

Maya Ramirez - September 17, 2019 at 10:01 PM



dear Maya, thank you .. from all of us above and below

Sandy Shaw - December 22, 2022 at 09:24 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mirjana Ljubenkovic.*



September 17, 2019 at 09:59 PM

SL

“ I may have never known Mrs. Mirjana personally, but I did get the privilege to hear her grandson Alex speak tirelessly about her. She may be gone from this plane of existence, but she will surely live on forever in his stories. Just by looking at these photos, I can see that Mirjana lived a long, beautiful life full of love and adventure. My condolences go out to Alex, and all those who knew and loved her well.

Sam Lloyd - September 16, 2019 at 08:44 AM



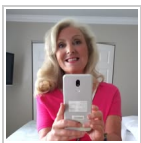
“ **MEMORIA FOR MIRJANA LJUBENKOVIC**

*She lives in your heart
And in the Eternities
Passage of one's life
The Holy Family welcomes
From one Soul to another*

-Joshua P. Sorensen

I have known her grandson, Alex, for over a decade. In his time of loss, I have composed a Waka style Tanka (Japanese Death Poem) to provide comfort and memorial.

Josh Sorensen - September 14, 2019 at 08:19 PM



“ *Dearest Granny,*

What a wonderful and rich life you lived. You loved dearly and you were dearly loved. And such lovely, sweet and deeply meaningful memories will live on through Sasha. May your memory be for a blessing dearest Granny.

Julie Goldberg - September 14, 2019 at 02:38 AM

“ I met Mrs. Mirjana many years ago, when the family lived in New Jersey and her daughter Lana, my dear friend was still alive. Such a lovely family who had so much in common with mine ,similar Eastern European background , Christian orthodox principles and traditional family values. My first impression of Mrs. Mirjana was of a kind, loving grand mother who was a quiet , gracious presence. I have many precious memories of all of them but especially of Lana , a wonderful human being who left us too soon.

The family moved to Florida shortly after they lost Lana and I got to know Mrs. Mirjana in the years that followed, through stories and events related to me by her devoted grandson Sasha.

The grandparents lived with Sasha for many years and it is my conviction that both grandparents and especially Mrs. Mirjana, tried stubbornly and tenaciously ,defying old age and chronic illnesses, to continue on living after she lost her only daughter, and found meaning in provided a family life and the loving support their only grandson needed.

She lived for Sasha and the family rather than for herself. That is the ultimate, supreme illustration of LOVE , of true ,complete ,unconditional, loyal LOVE that one can encounter rarely these days when people are so focused on the material aspect of life and their own wellbeing.

Sacha has reciprocated over and over the devotion and love his grandparents showed him by taking care of them in their old age ,allowing them to live with dignity and to feel loved and appreciated.

Mrs. Mirjana's last life chapter is an amazing inspiration , an example of courage, determination and enormous love for family, her grandson and God .

May she rest in peace!

She is gone but her life story will stay with us.

Deepest condolences from me and my family.

Daniela Weinberger

Thank you Sasha for creating the photo album that portrays the woman your grandmother actually was... a beautiful, caring and loving person.

daniela weinberger - September 12, 2019 at 07:33 PM

ME

“ *My condolences go out to Alex and his family for the loss of their beloved grandmother Mirjana. Even though I never had the opportunity to meet her in person, just sitting back and listening to Alex talk about her consistently was as if I had already met her before. He would talk about all the accomplishments she had did over her years and how she was a great, strong-minded individual in which everyone looked up to for comfort, advice, and guidance. Alex, I know that you have the strength to be strong for yourself. God has taken away something precious from you, but remember he has something more exciting for her in heaven.*

Menaka - September 12, 2019 at 04:59 PM



“ *Mirjana, mögest du ewige Ruhe beim Allmächtigen finden und für immer über deinen Enkel wachen. Ich bin sicher dass deine Güte, deine Liebe und deine Fürsorge ewig über deine Familie erstrahlen wird.*

David Centmeier - September 12, 2019 at 10:55 AM

PE

*There are some people who are blessings in our world.
Mira is such a person. Losing her daily physical presence on earth is a loss certainly. Her sweet smile and kindness have been encouraging reminders of what's positive in this life.
However, her presence remains strong in my heart.
She survived much sadness and loss with grace. She showed me by example that we must keep our loved ones alive in spirit. Our physical bodies are a temporary gift that make it easier for those around us to give and receive love. Now, more than ever, Mira will be getting the rewards for all she gave and did for her family and even for me, simply a neighbor. She was always available to listen and make me feel better when I was down. That's even more true now.
I pray for her eternal peace.
No doubt she is holding her grandson closer than ever.
God bless you, Mira.*

Peggy - September 15, 2019 at 10:09 AM

AS

“ I will miss terribly the great conversations she and I used to have during the long nights of reflection over the years....

What is the worth of saying "I am sorry" ? Or "I am sorry, granny!" ??

And thank you, Granny, for all that was and that could have been. I like to think of myself as a devoted son and grandson. It's for God to pass the final verdict on that..

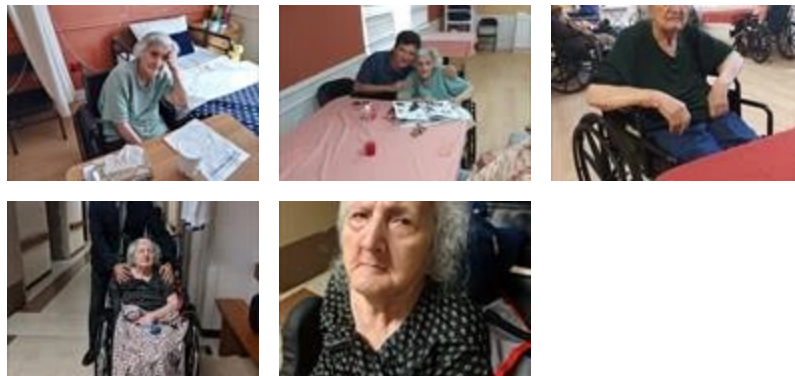
Granny's words ring in my ears: "Sashko, don't you fall apart on me now, [and in her tone of voice of exaltation] you be strong for us, for yourself, as you have your orders in this life just like we had ours. And your mom Lana and your granddad Bogdan, and all of us. Keep the vital traditions and memories alive. You do well. Stand strong. Stand loving. Budi jak za mene. Be strong for me."

Granny! You have been the higher gold than gold of my life for almost 50 years! I thank you along with the Divine World for such an incredible honor and blessing. Am I going to prove myself worthy? I will honor our traditions and keep your legacy alive. I will honor the old family patron-saint on his annual ancient date of martyrdom, whose sacrifice you valued so much. I promise to be worthy of your investment of a lifetime.

And also, thank you Granny for instilling in me a great lesson about what's most important in an honorable life: to carry the precious loyalty to that which is mine and my own by inheritance that nobody and nothing in the world can ever take away from me because it is historically mine and rooted in the hard ground of reality. Always protect the spiritual-genealogical foundations of your existence through which you came to be. And honor our family patron-saint, St. Ignatios Theophoros of Antiquity, who gave up his life undaunted by horrors that awaited him for the sake of future growth of a higher world of Man, thereby pushing the limits of the highest human potential. No ideology, no religion or any fake version thereof can

ever take away that which I have in me through my respect for History and biography and ancestral heritage. Like Granny did, so will I too protect the family tree.

Granny Miryana deserves the last honor guard of warriors, people perhaps better than I, but certainly not lesser, standing by her side, as her beautiful tender body of a merciful noble person who was a true warrior for life, a true war-mom who has been through the horrors of wars both before and after the uneasy peace of the Cold War, lay in flames in the last act of her final journey...



Alexander Ljubenkovic Shah - September 11, 2019 at 09:55 PM

AS

“ I wake up ... And I don't know how to go on with my life....it hurts so much to live without her.. feels like a heavy curse laying over me.. A weight of fact, which nothing, not even God can or would change. Can we ever love our fate? Is there "Amor Fati" for us? Now, looking at the world with new eyes, I realize how many many many people live without love in their lives.... The world feels like a desert plain now, with maybe some distant oases here and there.

I remember ... how overjoyed my now late elders were (and continued to be for years) all the way through three generations (to my great-grandparents) about my birth and life ... The curious little boy with wavy chestnut brown hair running around and smiling ... Granny even commissioned a respected painter artist to paint a portrait of me as a boy. Together with my granddad, she paid for my childhood country home to be built by my mom who just graduated from the School of Architecture in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Especially Granny, but also mom, and granddad, and dad would take me places to be together with the larger beauty of this world, to behold the old places in and out of old Europe. A world traveler, Granny respected the History of the World. She gave my life a direction in constant education and self-improvement. My Miryana financed my early education in the private International School of Belgrade run by the British and the American Montessori school teachers, in spite of the Communist pressure against that. Granny loved photography and books and cooking recipes. She was the family photographer, a true matriarch of the family soul. Granny's food and cleaning every day kept the family going. She was always so proud and happy to take me along on a visit with all her friends and acquaintances. My Granny Miryana was the strong pillar of my family, my world. Being in "Paradise" is too inadequate a word to describe how I felt then ... To feel so much love (what's in a word?) for coming into this world ... is a blessing I may not have deserved, I don't know, but I felt it all the way through .. She made my life so special ... I never knew until my teens that I was living in this world.. How did I earn such a blessing? Why me?

Granny was also with me back when my young mother lay dying on her deathbed, the only living child of my grandparents. I now find that there is no medicine for the state of being inconsolable... And this in a society seeking refuge in medicines for everything.

As emperor Marcus Aurelius (once upon a time from our part of the world) told in his diary titled "To Myself": A Human Must Stand Erect Not Erected. A Good Person Is Like A Vine That Produces Grapes Without Looking For Anything In Return. A Barrier On The Way Becomes The Way.

And yet, the barrier of death bears down so so heavily...

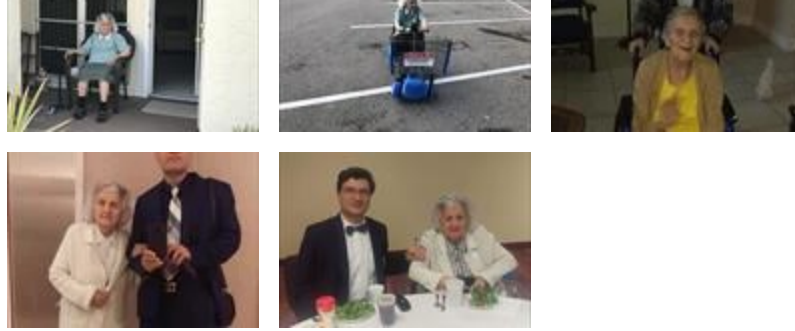
The Almighty tooth of Time will eat away at everything, at the memories, at you and at me, and IF we should soon forget each other and forget everyone, then what is left behind?

The invincibility of my granny Mirjana, her inadvertent charms, was an enormous source of my motivation and strength, which came crashing down the other day. I feel like an orphan now, crushed, with ..something of a lost cause behind him, though maybe not entirely.

I pray for our efforts not to be "truly nothing" or "for nought" in the Big Plan of the Universe.

She was the last of my loving family. I fought hard for her life over the years, but not flawlessly. And I was not always great or good towards her, such as at times when I would get viciously angry with her and laying blame over our problems that she tried to help me with in her best way possible. And still, in the hardest moments of my life, granny was there to jump into the fray and comfort me and advise me and help in any way possible. I did cause her suffering and hardships. Mainly by scaring her with my state of dissatisfaction and insecurity with my life and for my mistakes in life. And still, she kept her faith in me.





Alexander Ljubenkovic Shah - September 11, 2019 at 12:54 PM

JA

“ Although, I never met her personally, having known her grandson, I can only sense that she is dedicated, caring, loving and awesome person. We belong to the Lord and indeed we return to Him.

Jaffar - September 11, 2019 at 11:18 AM

SH

“ Mirjana was a beautiful, kind and devoted grandmother and friend who shall be greatly missed. We have been blessed by this exceptional lady we had the good fortune to have known as a friend.
Suzan Humeniuk
Gabrielle Hayes

suzan hayes - September 11, 2019 at 08:55 AM

RB

“ Sale, primi naše iskreno saučešće.



Radiša Bogdanovic - September 11, 2019 at 05:14 AM

SA

“ Dearest Miryana was a castle of charms encompassing a soulful European lady with decades of experience in survival through acceptance of life's ups and downs in a core Stoic way. Emperor Marcus Aurelius from Miryana's country back in Antiquity, wrote:

"Good people are like a vine that produces grapes without looking for anything in return."

And this is how Mirjana Ljubenkovic always was, tireless in her industrious efforts for the good of the family and the world, exuding with a welcoming and optimistic demanour, lavishing her inadvertent charms upon the people around her and with her.



Sashko - September 10, 2019 at 09:42 PM