



## Josefina Ecimovic

September 8, 1936 - January 26, 2023

Josefina Ecimovic of Quinton, passed away January 26, 2023. She is survived by her sons, John (Kelly) and David (Laura); grandchildren, Kiel (Holly), Sean (Stephanie), Tiffany Rife and Brittany Granados; great-grandchildren, Maverick, Tori, Lexi and Zoey; and so many other cherished family members. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Mirko; her parents, Johan & Alosia Sattelmajer; brother, Joseph; sisters, Maria and Olga; Her sister Johanna passed away just days after on January 30, 2023; and granddaughter, Veronica "Roni."

The youngest of five children, she was born in Bosanska Gradiska, Yugoslavia, in 1936. After surviving WWII in Slovenia, she and her family began the 300-mile journey home to Bosnia on foot. Along the way, they were robbed at gunpoint of all possessions - right down to their wooden spoons - leaving them to eat with sticks. Upon return to Bosnia, she and her immediate and extended family members were all interned by the communists in various concentration camps. The first camp was Stara Gradiska, which was notorious for atrocities against women and children, including forced labor, torture, starvation, and forced ingestion of toxins. They were then interned at Lamince, then at Aleksandrovac, where they spent most of their time. Finally, they were interned at Nova Topola, from which they were finally released on March 17, 1946. (Josefina's father so passionately hated communists, his children were forbidden to wear red clothing or lipstick - so we never saw her

wear anything red - ever.) Josefina rarely spoke about the atrocities she suffered during her childhood, instead focusing on and cherishing the relationships and strong family bonds created during those shared hard times. It was easy to see those bonds reflected in their eyes whenever she and those family members were together.

As her father undertook the long and arduous task of immigrating legally to America, 17-year-old Josefina met her soon-to-be husband Mirko, and elected to remain in Yugoslavia - much to her family's dismay.

As a young mother separated from her own mother and with nobody to guide her, she took care of her children while maintaining her sustenance garden, her chickens, and her house (which had neither plumbing nor electricity) and somehow managed to create meals from nothing on a wood burning stove. Since she and her husband refused to join the communist party, they were denied access to electricity, education, and decent employment. She had wanted to return to school after the war to become a nurse but was not permitted to do so. On February 16, 1969, with the sponsorship of her parents, Josefina and her family boarded the plane to America where she fulfilled her dream of freedom and safety. She learned English and became an American citizen, she was proud to be an American and embraced all it had to offer.

Josefina, "Baba", was THE Matriarch of our family. Strangers may not have known it by her quiet nature. However, she would tell you what you needed to know, even when you didn't want to hear it. She would tell you what you needed to do, even when you didn't want to do it. She was wise and insightful, shrewd and astute. Nothing got past her. She saw everyone and everything. If she was your friend, there was no one who was more devoted, loyal or protective. She loved her family with all her heart and soul. She was happiest with her family around, cooking the best meal you would ever eat.

She was the strongest person you would have ever met. You could depend on her, and you still can. Her strength of character will live on for generations. Baba's legacy is an example of a good life, and our appreciation and love will never fade.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 7 at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, Va. 23140, with the funeral service beginning at 11:30 a.m. Interment will follow in Washington Memorial Park.

# Cemetery Details

## Washington Memorial Park

6217 Memorial Drive  
Sandston, VA 23150  
<http://www.washingtonmemorialparkva.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 7. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

## Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:30 AM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

# Tribute Wall

DE

“ *Rest in peace draga mama. I love and miss you so much.*

David Ecimovic - February 09, 2023 at 11:01 AM

KE

“ *Baba is awesome. I view the time I lived with her and Deda to be about, if not, the happiest in my life.*

Kiel Ecimovic - February 07, 2023 at 07:51 AM

AP

“ *Teta Seka...*

*I was so sad to hear of your passing, from the time I was little, my mom & others always said I looked so much like you and that I had some of your traits, It was a great compliment & I (we) always said you were my 2nd mother. Our thoughts & prayers are with all the family during this sad time, while also dealing with the sudden passing of my mother... sending thoughts and prayers, Love: Anita, David, Keil, Breanna & Johanna Porter.*



Anita Porter - February 06, 2023 at 02:48 AM

WJ

“ *To David & Laura, a wonderful life in Josefina and great she could come to live here. Thank you for sharing this story. Accept our condolences for this time of loss. May God richly bless the family during this time.*

*Bill & Jean Jeffries*

William & Jean Jeffries - February 05, 2023 at 01:19 PM

DG

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I hope you find comfort from the wonderful legacy that is woven into the lives of your family.



Debbie Gingras - February 01, 2023 at 08:14 PM

LA

“ *Pocivaj u miru draga Teta*

laslo - February 01, 2023 at 12:56 PM

GT

“ *Garnice Taylor lit a candle in memory of Josefina Ecimovic*



Garnice Taylor - January 31, 2023 at 05:11 PM

BT

“ *My aunt Josephine, was a caring person. She knew everybody's birthdays, anniversary and food they like and they did not like. She was giving all her heart to people she loved. She never forget her family near and far. She kept in touch with her neighbors by letters and cards for over 50 years. My mom, her sister Olga passed away almost 29 years ago. My aunt Josephine loved me and care of me just like my mom would. I loved her with all my heart and I will miss her every day. RIP Teta Seko* 📍🥹.

Branka Tanasic - January 31, 2023 at 01:50 PM

JC

*Draga Teta Seka. I am in tears reading and re-reading thus beautifully written obituary. I had no idea how horrible life was during the war. My mother rarely spoke about it. She must have blocked it from her memory being u years older. You exuded an aura of love and warmth and always gave so many hugs. Thank you. I will remember yoh forever in my heart. Jasminka. Xoxo*

**Jasmine Conley** - January 31, 2023 at 06:29 PM

MK

*“ Thinking of you and your family during this time, as you celebrate the life of the most amazing woman. Although I never met her, reading her obituary makes me feel like I got to know her a little bit. What a wonderful example of strength and hope!*

**Melanie King** - January 31, 2023 at 01:42 PM



*“ JoAnna and I are praying for Laura, David and the whole family. Celebrate her life!*

**Joe Dombroski** - January 31, 2023 at 01:33 PM

JM

*“ Joe And Robin McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Josefina Ecimovic*



**Joe and Robin McLaughlin** - January 30, 2023 at 10:48 AM

JM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Ecimovic family. Mrs. Josefina Ecomivic's passing has touched so many in our community and certainly impacted the NKSO family of which David is a member. Our community has lost a beautiful soul and a caring and compassionate person.  
God Bless.

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**Joe McLaughlin** - January 30, 2023 at 10:47 AM

JV

“ Robby and I are so sorry to hear the passing of your mother. Look back at your memories of her to help you get through these sad days. May God bless her with eternal peace. The families are in are prayers 🙏❤️. Robby and Joann Via

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**Joann & Robby Via** - January 29, 2023 at 11:51 AM