



**VAN DER SLUIJS,**  
**Geertruida M.**

**(Truus, Mum & Oma)**

Born December 8, 1929 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, died March 2, 2001 in Dayton, Ohio at Kettering Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents. Loving wife and partner to Antonious (Anton). Devoted mother

and friend to Lieneke, husband Tom; Kees, wife Carol; Annette, husband Brad; Charles, wife Theresa; Trudy, husband Craig. She is Oma to Sarah, Rachael, Laura, Stephanie, Paul, Derek, Alex, Gretchen, Tony and Nicholas. She's the kind of Oma who spent lots of time with her grandchildren; loving them, nurturing them and knitting sweaters for them. She attended all the grandchildren's sporting events, their pageants and celebrated their awards. She was determined to never slight one over the other and she certainly succeeded. She made sure that her Dutch heritage was a part of our everyday lives. Truus is also survived by 4 sisters in Holland; Annie, Bep, Leonie and Willie; 1 brother Theo, wife Fia in Canada and 1 brother Rev. Charles Van Item also from Canada. She was also very close to sister-in-law Diene and brothers-in-law Koos, wife Toos and Leo, wife Ria, all from Holland. In addition she is survived by her cousins, Truus & Liny Lommerse of Kettering. Truus and Anton immigrated to the USA from Vlaardingen, Holland in January, 1957 with 2 small children. Their family quickly grew, with much love, a firm hand and lots of natural sibling chaos. Truus was an original member of the Holland-American Club. For many years she was involved with organizing and teaching the Youth Dancers of the club and preparing them for the annual World A'fair. She was the best appleflappen batter maker the club will ever know. She did this task for close to 25 years. **Truus was an active member of the Miami Valley Folk Dancers. She was always out on the dance floor either learning new steps or practicing old ones. Some of her favorite dances were Mari's Wedding and the Ice Waltz Dance.** Truus and Anton stayed at Elder Hostels around the country while they participated in Folk Dancing. Truus and Anton would regularly ride their bicycles throughout the week. If a new bike path was opened, they were riding on it. They regularly rode long passages of the bike path in Yellow Springs and Xenia, which the family plans to commemorate with inscribed bricks at those sites. Oma and Opa enjoyed hiking with the family at John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge. It was an annual event to hike on New Year's Day. The family would build a fire in the campground shelter after a long hike, roast marshmallows and shiver together around the fire. Truus and Anton both retired from Dayton Public Schools in 1996. She worked at Hawthorne, Dunbar and Longfellow Schools. She helped educate many young mothers in the common sense ways of motherhood. Truus's body has been donated to Wright State School of Medicine at her request. A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, March 8th at 10:00 A.M. at St. Anthony Catholic Church at 820 Bowen Street, Dayton, Ohio. Her brother, Rev. Charles Van Item will be officiating. The family will be at the church half an hour before the service to greet friends. Friends are also welcome and encouraged to join the family following the service. Directions will be available at the church. We would like to invite all friends to bring along a favorite memory, a story or photo, to be included in a memory book being created by the family. Truus/Mum/Oma was surrounded by family at the time of her death and there was no pain, only love. She will be missed and loved by many for all of our days! Though she loved flowers, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society for breast cancer research.