



Kum Ye Tarapchak

March 8, 1934 - April 15, 2025

Kum Ye Tarapchak, 91, of Harrisburg and formerly of Grantville, passed away on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, peacefully at her home. She was the wife of the late Stephen T. Tarapchak.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, on March 8, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Dong Eun Hong and Hansoon Suk. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, running, spending time with her dog, going to the casinos and especially spending time with her family.

She is survived by her daughters: Margaret K. wife of Ford Cook of Okeechobee, FL, and Mary A. Miller wife of Mike Mendolia of Harrisburg; granddaughters: Caitlin Otero and Kristin Miller; and her great granddaughter Caitliana Otero; stepdaughter May Reed Johnson wife of Richard Johnson of Seattle, WA; and her niece Dalin (Kuong hee) wife of Peter Yea of Columbia, MD.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. A procession will be leaving at 10:00 a.m. from the Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory, Jonestown.

Cemetery Details

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

Indiantown Gap Road
Anville, PA 17003

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 22. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery
Indiantown Gap Road
Anville, PA 17003

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I’ve had this up on my browser for over a week. I don’t know how I can possibly summarize the impact Kim had on my life in just a short paragraph.

Growing up in rural PA, Kim showed me a glimpse of other parts of the world I wouldn’t have known existed as a little kid. The beautiful black lacquer panels with mother-of-pearl inlays depicting scenery in Korea were in her fancy living room, with tasseled silk pillows for seating and ornate dolls and figurines along the cabinets (I especially liked the one with a guy catching a fish). Similar decorations were in her patio near the pool table, and they captivated my imagination. She also had a fiber optic color changing flower display in her room that was pure magic. Her Christmas tree was sparkly, with fancy ornaments that danced in the light. She would string together the Christmas cards she received from all around the world and hang them from her ceiling. They contained lettering that I didn’t understand, and I thought she had to be a genius to be able to read.

Kim had a rotary dial phone in the kitchen (I still have her phone number memorized as “diddle” four four six). Sometimes she would talk to Mrs. Hong and invite her over for lunch. They would pass the time speaking in Korean, and I was mesmerized by their conversations.

Kim’s kitchen was always a place of comfort and gathering. She would sometimes make kimchi and put it in a jar on the porch in the sun to ferment. She had a large window which overlooked the backyard and was peaceful. Well, except for the day we sat there and watched a tornado rip up the back fence. She would apply her makeup in the natural light, opening a small circular container with flowers on the side for her powder, a brush for her lipstick and liner, and a stick of eyeliner. She was always put together and took pride in the way she presented herself.

April, Caitlin, Kristin, and I used to play at Kim’s house all the time.

She had a He-man figurine in the toy chest that nobody played with. We were obsessed with Power Rangers, Sesame Street, Mousercise, and ponies.

Kim ran all kinds of races, earning medals and encouraging others on their fitness journeys. She was an inspiration to me as she ran on the treadmill in the basement and I would bounce on the trampoline.

The last time I returned to her home, I told her how I joined the military. She freshly baked my favorite chocolate chip cookies and put milk in her very best crystal glasses to show her appreciation that I visited her. She had pictures of me as a kid on display and told me how proud she was of me.

I wish I kept in touch more. She meant so much to me and I didn't make time for her as I grew older. Kim gave me a perspective that I will value forever. People, no matter how different they may look, are more similar than we are different. I am so thankful she was in my life and I will always remember her.

*With love,
Anna Salvaggio Hook*

Anna Salvaggio Hook - May 04, 2025 at 05:26 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kum Ye Tarapchak.



April 21, 2025 at 10:51 AM