



Lydia Stefanov Demko

August 31, 1934 - December 24, 2025

Lydia Stefanov Demko, 91, of Houston passed away peacefully from natural causes on December 24, 2025. Lydia was born on August 31, 1934, in Czechoslovakia to Vladimir and Margaret Stefanov. She is preceded in death by her husband Vladimir of 57 years of marriage and is survived by her son Michael and daughter Ellen, grandchildren Allysa, Mikala, Lindsey, and Cassie.

Lydia, known by all for having a smile and saying good morning and asking how you are doing. Never a bad thought and always wanting to help.

Lydia went through the horrors of World War II during the ages of 5 through 11. Ended up in a refugee camp with her parents in Passau Germany from 1945 to 1952 where she learned numerous languages. Emigrated to America with her parents in 1952 and settled in Morristown, NJ where she excelled and graduated from Morristown High School. For 1 year Lydia went to Misericordia College in PA and then transferred to Georgetown University School of Foreign Services, Institute of Languages and Linguistics where she graduated with honors.

Lydia worked at US customs and United Nations where she worked as a translator. She left government services to start a family and business with her husband Vladimir. After selling the business, Lydia got called back to

government service and worked with the FBI at the New York office from January 1992 to September 2002; then transferred to the Houston FBI office and worked as an employee till 2017 at the age of 83 serving her country that she so loved. She was ultimately called back again to work on a contractual basis till 2020.

Lydia worked as a translator and provided analysis of her translations for the White House and numerous high officials at the FBI. For these translations, Lydia received many commendations.

Lydia so loved her adopted country that she served her country working for the FBI till 86 years old.

The Demko family will be present to receive friends for viewing and visitation Friday January 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM, Rosary will begin at 10:30 AM, with Mass of Christian Burial following at 11:00AM at St. Jerome Catholic Church. 8825 Kempwood Dr. Houston, TX 77080. Reception will immediately follow on church grounds. Guests are invited to attend burial following reception at 2:00PM at Woodlawn Funeral Home and Cemetery 1101 Antoine Dr. Houston, TX 77055. In lieu of flowers please consider a charitable donation to St Jerome Catholic School to help meet the needs of the students and their families that Lydia considered very important. <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/GGViSA?vid=1o23lg>

Previous Events

Visitation and Viewing

JAN 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Jerome Catholic Church
8825 Kempwood Drive
Houston, TX 77080

Rosary

JAN 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Jerome Catholic Church
8825 Kempwood Drive
Houston, TX 77080

Mass Of Christian Burial

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Jerome Catholic Church
8825 Kempwood Drive
Houston, TX 77080

Tribute Wall



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of *Lydia Stefanov Demko*.



January 08 at 01:44 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Lydia Stefanov Demko*.



January 08 at 01:11 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Lydia Stefanov Demko*.



January 08 at 10:24 AM



“ *The Besaiso Family* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of *Lydia Stefanov Demko*.



The Besaiso Family - January 05 at 07:39 PM

TH

“ Dear Ellen and Michael,

Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of your mother, Lydia. I had the privilege of working with her, and she was truly one of those rare people who was always kind, caring, and a genuine inspiration in both her words and her actions.

Lydia beautifully lived her Catholic faith, and it showed in the compassion, grace, and warmth she shared with everyone around her. She was deeply loved and respected by all of us, and it was an absolute pleasure to work alongside her.

May you find comfort in knowing how many lives she touched and how fondly she is remembered. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

*With sincere sympathy,
Tetyana Hamilton*



Tetyana Hamilton - January 03 at 04:41 PM

EM

Thank you so much for your kind words. You know my mama loved y'all. She often spoke of her "work family". So honored that you made the trip back to Texas for the last gathering before we laid her to rest. I thank all her colleagues that came. ❤️

Ellen Marchand - January 31 at 03:54 AM