



Diva Maria Rose Pieri

March 17, 1926 - April 5, 2020

PIERI, Diva Maria Rose. Proudly born on the beloved Irish holiday of St. Patrick, March 17, 1926, Ms. Pieri sadly passed away from Coronavirus complications on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. Blessed daughter, sister, mother and grandmother of 94 years, she is reunited in our Father's heavenly embrace with son, Ronald Garstecki, and grandson, Chase. She is survived by her 4 children, Linda Kurtz (Ken), Michael Garstecki (Vicki), Patty Bookvich (Steven), and Thomas Garstecki. Beloved sister of Mario DePasquale (Sylvia), Tony DePasquale (Janet), the late Angelo DePasquale, and the late Elsie Mariani (Paul). She is forever remembered as a loving grandmother to her 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A passionate lover of music, Diva personified her distinctive name and embraced every opportunity to sing and dance---whether performing on a community stage or at a family gathering. As a first generation American and the middle child of five born to Italian-immigrant parents, Diva spent her first 15 years in the hard-working steel town of Braddock, PA, before relocating with her family to Detroit's east suburbs as a teenager.

The unique name her opera-loving father bestowed on her suggested a future destined for stardom, yet Diva instead chose a simple and humble life devoted to service and to raising her 5 children. A devout Catholic who prayed the rosary daily, Diva dedicated herself to helping and caring for those in need, working at the Salvation Army and volunteering at the American Red Cross. Above all, her greatest treasure was her large and vibrant family spanning

four generations, and she considered the collection of family photos which crowded her bedside table her most valued personal possessions. Fiercely proud of her Italian-American heritage and faithful to her cultural roots, she mentored several generations of women in learning her signature ravioli and gnocchi recipes, staples at many a family gathering. Diva's seemingly limitless capacity for unconditional love was the unifying force knitting her family tightly together – more powerful than the greatest adversity -- and it remains her enduring legacy to all who were supported and graced by her love.

If there are such things as Saints in the universe, Diva is most certainly her family's patron saint of motherly love and endless devotion. She is the song that plays forever in their hearts. Arrangements entrusted to Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., Sterling Hts. Memorial contributions to the Salvation Army are appreciated. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I will cherish the memory of my Aunt Diva for the rest of my days here on Earth. She was a special lady to me, to her family and to all that knew her. May you rest in peace sweet lady ♡♡



Tara Szostek - May 21, 2020 at 05:22 PM

LK

“ Mom,

You were our angel on earth and guiding light for 94 years. I loved and admired you for your tremendous strength and courage. So blessed that God chose you to be my mom. You will always be a Diva to me.

All my love, Linda



Linda Kurtz - May 21, 2020 at 11:44 AM

MG

There are numerous values that my Mom imparted to me. The greatest of these were her values and celebration of family and unconditional love of that community. I traveled with her at the age of 8 to accompany and meet her Father in Pennsylvania. The experience solidified the dedication and commitment to the values for mentioned. The indelible mark that this trip left on me continues today as I am just as committed to these same values. These are based in our Jesus Christ teaching and principles. They will forever be the guiding Light that governs over my life. Until we meet again my Mother and soul mate. I love you in Christ. Forever and ever..... Eternally grateful for how you showed me these powerful lessons of life. God Blessed me when I became your Son and you became my Mother. XOXO.....

Michael Garstecki - May 21, 2020 at 02:37 PM

PB

My dear beloved mother, I can't tell you how much i miss you. But so glad for you that you are out of pain and with your maker. Mom, You weren't only my mother you were my closest friend. We had so many great times together and so much laughter. You were my biggest influence and always supportive in my life. As a child hearing you sing was the best feeling ever as I knew you were happy at that moment. You were my first and biggest influence in being a singer. So glad I got your vocal genetics. In every picture of you growing up you were the classiest and prettiest mom. I remember admiring you when you would get ready to go out as I always thought you were so pretty. And you were nicest mom too, you hardly ever got angry. Even your spankings didn't hurt lol. That is how sweet you were. You never gossiped about anyone and you prayed for everyone 🙏. You taught us to love god and to keep a strong faith, and the importance of helping others at any given moment. 🙏 You taught us how to love unconditionally. Your energy was abounding which I am so grateful for getting that trait from you. I felt special and honored to be named after St, Patrick in honor of your birth day. I loved having a mom named Diva lol you were our Diva before "Diva" was cool. You taught me the simplicity of cooking as you could take a few greens and make a gourmet meal out of it. My favorite was sautéed Swiss chard with a little onion and garlic pieces on top of a good piece of Italian sliced bread dribbled with olive oil. This is the highest gourmet made simple. You were a tough, Brave and fearless woman who took on life with such grace. Everyone loved you mom. You were good to the core and I am so proud you are my mother and now my angel Thank you for all you gave so selflessly. Memory eternal in gods love and light. Fly on and fly high with our family angels. Big hugs to Ron and Grandma. Until we meet again Rest In Peace beloved Mother. I love you. 🙏🙏❤️

Patty Biokvich - May 21, 2020 at 11:43 PM

JH

Aunt Diva made me feel at home and loved during sleepovers with my cousins. Her kindness seemed to be boundless. I love you and can't thank you enough, Aunt Diva.

John Haracz - October 12, 2020 at 01:21 AM