



Joan L. Militello

February 10, 1932 - October 5, 2021

We remember and celebrate the beautiful life of Joan L. Militello, age 89. She was a loving wife, our beautiful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother “GeeGee,” sister, aunt, cousin, and cherished friend. She passed away peacefully on October 5, 2021 in her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on February 10, 1932, to the late Harold and Matilda (Gottleber) Heitzig in Bay City, where she lived her entire life. She met, fell head over heels in love with, and married, our dad, Felix “Phil” Militello on June 25, 1949, and together they enjoyed 64 years of making beautiful memories. Mom owned JJ’s Fabrics with her long-time friend, Jane Wheeler. She later went on to create a home-based Accounting & Tax Service, assisted by her sister, Eloise Lisk and daughter-in-law, Karen Militello, until her retirement. She also worked Elections in Bay City for many years. Mom was a member of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, where she loved the Mass, and enjoyed volunteering for funeral luncheons.

Our mom had a zest for life that was contagious. She loved crafting, quilting, painting, floral arranging, and making beautiful gifts for all of us. She loved to travel, shopping (especially at Dillard’s when in Florida), taking bus trips to the casino, and a good game of cards or marbles. She cherished all the nights spent on the dance floor, dancing with our dad, her forever dance partner. She was a devoted friend to many. Most of all, Mom’s greatest joy was spending time with family and being surrounded by our love.

Our mother will be deeply missed, yet lovingly remembered by those whose lives she touched. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her five children, Linda (Jim) Gilles, Rosalie (Mark) Gentle, Phyllis (Stan) Madziar, Rick (Karen) Militello, and Chris (Deb) Militello; fifteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren; her beloved sister, Eloise Lisk; in-laws, Grace Chevalier, Pauline (Tom) Guerin, Jeanette Budnick, Jim and Janice Militello, Penny Militello, Ross Brown, and very special sister-in-law, Janice Peters, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and cherished friends. She is preceded in death by our beloved dad, Phil; her parents; step-mother, Adelaide Heitzig; sisters and brothers-in-law, Lois (Bud) Sullivan, Lorraine (Sam) Wackerle, and Harold Lisk; in-laws, Santo (Rose) Militello, Tony Militello, Sam Militello, Neno (Pat) Militello, Charles

(Marylee) Militello, Mary (Ken) Hunter, Cecelia (Cindy) Brown, Alvin Chevalier, and Ted Budnick; nieces, Renee Strawn and Kathy Haller; nephews, Vince Militello and Jimmy Sullivan, and her beloved Frasier (the cat).

We would like to thank so many people for their love and support during Mom's journey home. Thank you to Heartland Hospice and our nurse's aide, Kim, who cared for mom with such tenderness and a joyful spirit. Our RN, Jennifer, whose love and compassion will forever be appreciated. While Jen would say mom was her "perfect" patient, Jen was our "perfect" nurse. God blessed us with our caregiver, Lori LaPrairie Draves, who joined our tribe five months ago, and it felt like she had been with us always. Her loving care and concern for mom was such a comfort. She has been our angel. Finally, thank you to our "Resident RNs," Andra and Jason, who answered every call with love and support. Special thanks to Sherry Jones for her thoughtfulness, comfort, and constant love, not only for our mom, but for all of us as well, and for her delicious soups and breads too.

Our family welcomes you to visit and celebrate the life of our loving mom on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM with a 5:00 PM Vigil at Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 821 N. Pine Rd., between Ridge & Center. On Monday, October 11, 2021, visiting will continue at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (St. John the Evangelist Church), 614 Pine St., Essexville, from 10:00 AM until her 11:00 AM Funeral Liturgy, with Fr. Dale Orlik presiding. The Rite of Committal will be held privately in Floral Gardens Cemetery. Due to COVID-19, masks will be provided. Memorial contributions may be directed to Heartland Hospice, Muscular Dystrophy Association, or myTeam Triump-GLBR. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family online at <http://www.skorupskis.com>. We love you, mom. Always and forever.

Cemetery

Floral Gardens Cemetery

2215 Cass Ave.
Bay City, MI, 48708

Events

OCT **Visiting** 02:00PM - 06:00PM

10

Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services -
Bay County
821 N. Pine Rd., Essexville, MI, US, 48732

OCT **Vigil** 05:00PM

10

Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services -
Bay County
821 N. Pine Rd., Essexville, MI, US, 48732

OCT **Visiting at Church** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

11

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (St. John the Evangelist)
614 Pine St., Essexville, MI, US, 48732

OCT **Funeral Liturgy** 11:00AM

11

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (St. John the Evangelist)
614 Pine St., Essexville, MI, US, 48732

Comments



“ Our condolences to the family. We're sorry we were not able to attend the service.

Patrick M. Gentle - October 12 at 04:35 PM



“ Condolences to Joan's family. I had planned to attend Mass this morning but. my body had other plans.

Tommy Reder (Joan's previous neighbor on Natures Ridge)

Tommy Reder - October 11 at 11:09 AM



“ Joan, we had so much to talk about over the years. So much energy you had. Between your daily walks and endless weeks of dancing, I never thought it would end. I always felt a little more pressure while working on your feet. They just had to keep going !, I have to believe you and Felix and back in each others arms with your bodies renewed by Jesus Christ. Keep going, you both have a new audience now. Show them all your moves ! Thanks for that wonderful cake you brought to my office. You will be missed so much, but a little smile is behind our tears as we know you are now with Felix and God dancing through the clouds and touching the stars.

God Speed,

Dr Judi Ecker

Judi Ecker DPM - October 10 at 02:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joan L. Militello.



October 10 at 12:48 PM



“ My condolence to Joan's entire family. She was a beautiful woman inside and out and was so proud of her family. I know that she will be missed by all of you and that you will keep her stories alive.

Kathy Dishaw

Kathy Dishaw - October 10 at 09:08 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joan L. Militello.



October 09 at 06:23 PM



“ I can see Joan and Phil tripping the light fantastic in the clouds as I type this. I remember a time when we were at a dinner party. Phil and Joan were out on the floor dancing as one, when Joan whispered to Phil that she was going to the rest room. He swung her out and continued to dance with a nearby dancer on the floor. When Joan returned he swung that person out....Joan stepped in and they continued as if she never left. So it is now...they are dancing like he never left. God bless them both and may God continue the beautiful family they so enjoyed. I am Phil's sister and am happy to say that I was their first baby sitter and always loved being with the children (now adults) and the family.

Grace Chevalier and family

Grace Chevalier - October 08 at 12:42 AM



“ One of the smartest, strongest most determined woman that I have ever met and was lucky enough to have known. She played her cards to win!

JMat - October 07 at 09:54 PM



“ Our condolences.
the Gallaghers

Dr.Rita (Munley) and Gary(Gus) Gallagher - October 07 at 03:50 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Joan L. Militello.



October 07 at 02:33 PM



“ Phyllis, I'm sad to hear of your mom's passing. You had her for many years, and that is a blessing. I have a picture of her somewhere, at the church for my wedding, helping make sure the dresses looked perfect as each bridesmaid walked down the aisle. We got the fabric from JJ's, and she helped make them. Can you remember back that far? I wish you peace and comfort. Barb Pawlicki

Barb Pawlicki - October 07 at 01:31 PM



“ I'm so very sorry for your loss... my deepest sympathies to you and your family. Rest In Peace!!!



Cathy Lopez - October 07 at 11:44 AM



“ Dear Very Special and Loving Family of our Dearly Beloved Aunt Joan,

As you walk this trail of sorrow, know that the Lord walks with you, he will give you strength, comfort and peace when you are ready.

Saying Good-bye is never easy, but the light and spirit of your Mom still shines brightly through each and every one of you! One does not have to look very far to find your Mom's bright smile, welcoming personality, loving kindness and fondness for life and all it's beauty and treasures; as her legacy lives on in all of you. Our families go way back with endless stories and laughs, but no matter how much time had passed, your Mom would make you feel like you were the most missed person in the room. She always made everyone feel so special!

Aunt Joan will be missed by us all, but Thanks to each of her beautiful children, we will continue to see and share all her wonderful qualities.

Rest in Peace Aunt Joan and carry with you our Love for you and Uncle Phil.

Lorri Dawson - October 06 at 09:49 PM