



Serafina Ficarrota

December 15, 1934 - July 19, 2016

Thank you all for coming today to help us say goodbye to my grandmother Lucy, or as many of us knew her, Nonna. There was never a time when Nonna wasn't in my life. Many people may not know, but there were probably only 50 days in my entire life where I didn't at least speak with Nonna. The only way she would approve of me going all the way to Boston for college was if I promised to call every single day. I agreed and continued the tradition well after graduation.

Nonna enjoyed poetry, the beach, watching figure skating, listening to music and of course had a love of dancing. Whether grabbing the closest grandchild to be the first one on the dance floor or simply dancing around the kitchen, there was no denying Nonna certainly had the moves.

I would be remiss not to mention Nonna's famous cooking. For a while, I thought my college friends were keeping me around just for the large trays of chicken parm, eggplant parm and baked ziti Nonna would send home with me after breaks.

Nonna was someone who lived for her family. Her biggest pride and joy came from watching her family grow and evolve. I've never seen people with a bigger heart than those of my family and those that Nonna had a hand in raising. She instilled in us a true sense of kindness and caring. At the same time, all of us have a tough as nails attitude that has helped us become the people we are today. On the train back from Boston last week, I was helping a woman put her luggage in the top carousel. We talked for a while and after some pleasant conversation she said, "You know, you can really tell you were raised right." This made me think of the many times I have been told this throughout my life and how that is a true testament of my grandmother and everything she accomplished. She was a guiding light for us and I know she was proud of us all.

I was so lucky to live in a household with my grandmother. Growing up with an Italian born grandmother made me experience a whole world of culture that many others my age did not get to experience. Not only did Nonna teach me about Italian culture and language, but she also left me with many great stories. People have often told me I should write a TV series about my childhood with Nonna as the main character. From hiding in the boiler room during thunderstorms to warning me of dolphin attacks before I would go on every vacation, Nonna was truly one of a kind. She was always someone who could make you

double over in laughter when you really needed to laugh or be a calming presence with a gentle arm rub.

While we will all grieve and feel sorrow from our loss, I would like to encourage everyone to remember the greatness in Nonna. Speak today of fond memories and times Nonna made you laugh and love. Saying that, I would like to end with a quote from Winston Churchill:

“Let us be contented with what has happened and be thankful for all that we have been spared.

Let us accept the natural order of things in which we move.

Let us reconcile ourselves to the mysterious rhythm of our destinies; such as they must be in this world of space and time.

Let us treasure our joys but not bewail our sorrows.

The glory of light cannot exist without its shadows.

Life is a whole, and good and ill must be accepted together.

The journey has been enjoyable and well worth making.”

Donations to Hospice of Westchester & Putnam 540 White Plains Road, Ste 300
Tarrytown, New York 10591-5132. www.vnahv.org would be appreciated

Cemetery

Events

Gate of Heaven Cemetery JUL

10 West Stevens Avenue **22**

Hawthorne, NY, 10530

Mass

11:00AM

St. Patrick's Church

137 Moseman Road, Yorktown Heights, NY, US, 10598

Comments



“ Mom/Nonna lived and took care of us in Yorktown for over 32 years. She was with us for all the good times and bad. She was there, encouraging me through all the hard times. She dedicated her life to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Family was her whole life. We are heartbroken. She will forever be in our hearts.

Tina - July 21, 2016 at 03:05 PM



“ Love, Deborah, Ray, Mandy & Alison purchased the Delicious Delights Basket for the family of Serafina Ficarrotta .



Love, Deborah, Ray, Mandy & Alison - July 21, 2016 at 01:17 PM



“ With over two years to prepare for this, it was still devastating, I now know what a broken heart feels like. To lose a mother, grandmother , and greatgrandmother. Three generations grieving the loose of an adoring loving soul . May you rest in peace with grandma ,grandpa and Padre Pino with all our love until we meet again in heaven at the lords table.

Sal - July 20, 2016 at 02:49 PM



“ Marg Caltabiano lit a candle in memory of Serafina Ficarrotta



Marg Caltabiano - July 20, 2016 at 01:53 PM