



Dorothy "Dottie" E. (Troy) Vaitkunas

June 17, 1940 - February 14, 2018

(Lawrence) Dorothy "Dottie" Elisabeth Vaitkunas (nee Troy), died after a long illness at Lawrence General Hospital February 14. Treasured wife of William Vaitkunas, niece of John Stavaski, mother of Bethann, Des, James and their families, grandmother of Matthew, Chuck, Katie, Kayla, Jenna, Kierra, Nicole and their families. A longtime Registered Nurse who trained and worked at Lawrence General, she also worked tirelessly as a community activist to improve Lawrence. At the request of the family, visiting hours and services will be private.

Comments



“ Thank you very much to everyone for your kind words in your memories of Ma. We've always known how much of an impact she has made on the world we just weren't expecting the hole to open up quite so soon in that world.

I will make sure that pop knows of everyone's kind words and memories. Also a thank you to those at John Breen for making it beautiful, peaceful and tributary to everyone's Ma

Desiree Vaitkunas - February 25, 2018 at 10:43 AM



“ To the family of Dottie,

I met Dottie back in October of this past year when my grandmother was hospitalized with pneumonia at Lawrence General. The two of them were roommates. I was very distraught and wasn't feeling very sociable, but somehow she knew exactly what to say to lift my spirits...my mother's and my grandmother's as well. Her words of wisdom and inspirational stories about her and her beloved Bill and the rest of her amazing family were so comforting. I really appreciated her sharing all of that with us when we needed it most. Obviously I didn't know Dottie very long, but in that short time I learned a lot about who she was as a person...and she was most certainly one of the smartest, strongest, and above all one of the most compassionate women I've ever known. Her capacity for caring about others was awe-inspiring. I remember turning to my mother and telling her how this lady couldn't be real. That one day after leaving the hospital we'd find out she was never there...because she was really an angel who had come to us in our time of need. Well she was real, but I feel like I got it half right, because one of heaven's finest just went back home.

My deepest condolences. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Best,
Katrina

Katrina Rapa - February 20, 2018 at 10:51 PM



“ Uncle Bill, Beth, Billy, and Jim.

I am deeply saddened by this news. I have fond memories of time spent with the family from my childhood. I will be keeping you and all who loved Aunt Dot in my thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Dave Elias

David Elias - February 19, 2018 at 10:17 AM



“ Her children and immediate family as she always saw all of us



Desiree Vaitkunas - February 18, 2018 at 06:50 PM



“ Thinking of Dot with love and remembering the happy times - like putting together the St. Patrick's Day float ! She was the ultimate example of what a nurse should be, what neighbors should aspire to, and how a proud mother and grandmother should share her love and wisdom. With love and prayers to her family, June & Steve Black

june black - February 18, 2018 at 05:19 PM



“ Your Mum was so kind to me when we were children, I remember her fondly ! I hope you find peace in knowing that even after 45 years , the memory of both you and your Mother bring a smile to my face!! Please except my condolences and prayers during your time of grief. God Bless!



Deby Sherman - February 18, 2018 at 03:30 PM



“ Ron Smith lit a candle in memory of Dorothy "Dottie" E. (Troy) Vaitkunas



Ron smith - February 18, 2018 at 10:43 AM



“ She was one of the 4 Dot's in our neighborhood, the others being my mother Dorothy Nelson, Dorothy Willette and Dorothy d'Arville! Dot will be missed! After my mother passed away Dot was who we went to for advice on various illness's the kid's came down with. Dot and Bill are some of the people I sorely miss from the old neighborhood, the only other thing being PJ's Pizza! Bill and family, you're in our thoughts and prayers! Dot, you were a wonderful person who we will always remember.

Rick Nelson - February 18, 2018 at 10:41 AM



“ Where do I begin my beloved Dot. My adopted mama. I can't thank you enough for loving me. For being their for me when life was to rough. I loved our days on the porch on hot summer nights with coffee in hand. The love and laughter we shared. My life will never be the same without you. I can't believe you are no longer here with me. I love you and will miss you so much and my life will not be complete without you. I'm glad I was their to say my last goodbyes. My heart breaks. If I could only pick up the phone and call you and talk to you. I so love you mom beyond words and can't wait till I see you again. I love you mom. Carlene.

carlene magoon - February 18, 2018 at 12:23 AM



“ Iam so sorry for your loss Iam sad that I cannot say my last good but to a wonderful women and workfriend I Due understand the family's wishes May dots soul Rest In Peace and her memory be eternal joanna kulesza

joanna kulesza - February 17, 2018 at 11:12 PM



“ My Mom was so many things... she was a devoted daughter to a father who expected too much, and a very loving mother- a niece, to her "other mother", her Aunt Rita and her amazing husband, our beloved UJ who calls her his daughter. She was a superb and caring nurse who was always sad she couldn't get her Bachelor's... but was glad she trained at the General because it meant she met my Dad there when her roommate and friend Eva suggested she write to her brother in the Navy... It's a really romantic love story how they met.

She had a lifelong bad back, but never complained- she just got on with it.

She liked to feed people... and her food was amazing.

She didn't have a lazy bone in her body- she worked hard, tirelessly, for us and for those in her care. Ma didn't go for shortcuts.

She was reliable- when my great-grandmother was dying- she went and nursed her through her last hours, making sure the right things happened, being first the nurse and then the grandchild. That was her way.

She liked to help people... and she helped teach the people of Lawrence to fight for their city. The Blizzard of 78 saw her cook for so many people... people we didn't even know... because although we had no power, we had gas- and so, cook she did, and she sheltered countless people who had nowhere warm. Oh, and then she got on the back of a snowmobile and went to work.

She had a rocking sense of humour... traded Polish vs Lithuanian jokes and jibes with my dad... always a smile on her face. When she wasn't yelling at us to do stuff we should have done ages ago!

Music... she played the piano and organ... she would curse me when I asked her to play the Clarinet Polka, but she would do it. "Oh Bethie, thats too hard!" but she was flawless- and completely self taught.

She liked to make pretty things- a talented artist, she made beautiful crafts and florals. I'd say she had green thumbs but her hands were too clean for that.

But most of all, she was a mother and grandmother, and wife... she loved her family more than she cared for herself... even when ill, very ill, her only worries were for my father.

When I wanted to move to England, she said "I will miss you, but go... all I want is for you to be happy". It was hard for her, but she visited here to see me get my degree, the one she couldn't have.... and she loved it here.

My mom, like all people, had her faults... but, there is only one thing I would change about her... sadly, it's the one thing we all must face. Ma, I would give anything to kiss you and feel your cool, healing hands on my face once more... and someday, if God sees me worthy, I will.

Kocham cię, moja matko ... nasza piękna i kochająca matka. Śpij dobrze i czekaj, aż do Ciebie dołączymy.

I love you, my mother- our beautiful and loving mother... sleep well, and wait until one day we are all together again.



Bethann Siviter - February 17, 2018 at 08:22 AM



From Des;

The one biggest thing that my mom was always big on and one of her greatest wishes was for people to overcome their differences.

Family should know the value of family and petty trivial things should never drive a wedge.

She also taught all of us that family is more than blood.

So if any of you is out of touch by choice with somebody who is family, swallow your pride, Reach Out and reconnect. That is the biggest wish she had for everyone.

Family means more than anything else, blood or otherwise.

Not that long ago she told me that her greatest fear was that she wouldn't be remembered later.

The last time she told me that I reminded her just how many people called her Ma.

She was a lady. A true and proper lady. One with quick wit and an amazing sense of humor.

And one who never met a stranger

She loved lilies

Favorite perfume is Shalamar

She could speak Polish and understand some German

Her handle back in the day on CB radio was polka dot

At one of the earliest memories that made my mom real to me instead of just being my parent;

Is a movie on 8mm that we watched as kids where my mom was sliding down the hill in New Hampshire on a saucer sled.... And wiped out three quarter way down.

I love you Ma and I'm going to miss you terribly...

Desiree Vaitkunas - February 15, 2018 at 06:20 PM



“ Dottie should never have worried that she would not be remembered. She always had a big heart and a smile for everyone. She is fondly remembered.

Blessings to her family.

Clare A. Towler Janusz, RN. LGHSN Class of 1960

Clare A. Towler Janusz RN - February 17, 2018 at 04:03 PM