



Arlene Vitale

JUL 19, 1943 - MAY 6, 2020



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Arlene Vitale

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Arlene Vitale, of Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Bloomingdale, New Jersey, passed away on Wednesday, May 6. She is survived by her son, Michael, of Fort Myers, her daughter, Irene Dedio and husband Sam of Naples, Florida, and two beloved grandchildren, Sam and Ava. She was predeceased by her husband of 46 years, Sal, her parents, William and Mildred Wehrkamp, and her brother, Bill. She was a devoted wife, loving mother and adoring grandmother.

Born in Passaic, New Jersey and raised in Clifton, New Jersey, Arlene was a graduate of Clifton High School and attended Rutgers University. She worked at ITT Federal Laboratories in Nutley, N.J. where she met her husband. She was a member of the Bloomingdale United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and was the church librarian. Active in her community, she was a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader as well as a team mom and class mom.

After raising her children, she studied communications and film at William Paterson University, which led to a new career in New York with ABC Television Broadcast Operations and Engineering. She spent the last 16 years of her career in information technologies at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Arlene loved Broadway theater and was an avid movie fan who appreciated a wide variety of film genres. She was a longtime supporter of Theater Development Fund, because she believed in its mission of making the magic of live theater affordable for all. In lieu of flowers, loved ones may make a donation in her honor to tdf.org.



Tribute Wall

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PY

Peggy Yost posted:

Arlene was my sister in law but even more she was like a true sister to me. She and Sal were so kind to us and I can never forget when they took me and my two younger children into their home for 3 months after I separated from my husband. They provided safety, security and delicious meals for us, and would take nothing in return. We were given young Michael's bedroom and he slept in their bed. We stayed until I could get a job, a car and an apartment to start over. I will be forever grateful for their help during a very difficult time in my life. Another incident I will never forget is the Christmas Eve we gathered with family and exchanged gifts. Arlene and I gave each other the identical gift, a nightgown in an apricot color. There was no preplanning of what anyone wanted, but being of like mind, we chose each other the same thing, even to the color. What are the chances of that happening? They bought a home a block away from me in Bloomingdale which I knew was going on the market and I called Arlene to suggest she come to see it. They bought it the next day. I spent a lot of precious time with Arlene in those days. I saw her once after moving to Arizona, when I was on a trip back east. I had invited her to come and visit us in Arizona but it didn't happen. I'm glad she and Michael moved to Florida to be near Irene and Sam and the kids. Godspeed Arlene, love you forever!

May 9 at 10:03 AM

PY

Peggy Yost posted:

Arlene was my dear sister-in-law. She was much more than that to me..she was my friend! I have never forgotten the kindness and generosity shown to me and my children by both Arlene and Sal. They took us in for 3 months when I separated from my husband. They gave us one of their bedrooms and put Michael in bed with them. Arlene cooked a delicious meal every night for 3 additional people. They made us feel safe until I could get a job and a car and start a new life in an apartment with my kids. They wanted nothing in return and just did that from love. We were lucky to live one block away from each other previously and had lots of precious time together. I moved west to Arizona and didn't see her after that. I am teary-eyed as I reminisce about those days and have so much love in my heart for both Arlene and Sal and their two wonderful kids Irene and Michael, and also Sam and her very special grandkids Sam and Ava that meant so much to her. It's so tough to lose a parent. God speed Arlene. I will love you forever!

May 8 at 11:21 AM

LA

Lori Artinian posted:

Dear Irene & Family, I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother. Her beautiful smile and kind words I remember most. My deepest condolences. With love, Lori Artinian & family

May 8 at 6:44 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Arlene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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