



Virginia Lee Sullivan Ortolani

JUL 6, 1930 - APR 14, 2016



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On April 14, 2016, we lost our mother. Virginia Lee Sullivan Ortolani was born on July 6th, 1930, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Virgil and Bonnie Sullivan. She was a little girl with big dreams. She made those dreams come true when she fell in love during a college class in Pittsburg, Kansas. She sat behind a boy with coal black hair and deep brown eyes. She knew at that moment that he was the one who would walk beside her in life and wait at Heaven's gate ready to lead her home again. This beauty queen from Kansas married her city boy from New York on a beautiful summer day in June of 1951, and they spent their lives together until he preceded her in death on November 28, 2008.

Virginia was known throughout Southeast Kansas as the Crystal Lady due to her success with Princess House Crystal. She worked with Princess House as a Regional Manager for over two decades and made many friends in her travels! She earned several accolades and received award after award for her ability to sell the product that she loved! She was known for her smile, laughter, and fun-loving personality! She also worked seasonally at Pittsburg State University helping students with scheduling and enrollment. Virginia was wonderful with people and thrived in settings where she could help and interact with others.

Her greatest accomplishment in life was her family. She raised five kids with a loving and patient heart. Our family is who we are because of our mother and her unconditional love for us! As our family grew so did her joy and love. The Ortolani Sunday lunches were legendary to all those around us and they were made possible because our mom was willing to prepare a meal for thirty plus people every Sunday after church! We



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made memories around that kitchen table as laughter filled the house. Sharing food, stories, and love was a family tradition that our mom started and fostered; we were rich because of her. Dad may have been the head of the family, but our mom was our heart. She showed us how to love, she sang to us, read us stories, held our hand, chased away nightmares, and taught us how to be dreamers. This girl, who didn't have much growing up, gave us the world!

Virginia will be met in Heaven by her father, Virgil, and her mother, Bonnie. They will be so very proud of the incredible woman she became and how she honored them throughout her life. She will get to hold her granddaughter, Kate Grimaldi, in her arms and tell her how much we love her! She has many Aunts and Uncles that she will be pleased to see along with some great friends whom she has missed terribly. She will be able to sit down with Mary Conely and Sue McCaskill to play some cards and talk about the old neighborhood: filling Heaven's kitchen with laughter. What a gift that will be for her, but the biggest gift will be her taking her husband's hand again and continuing their love affair. My dad didn't want her to rush, but he has missed having her by his side. No measure of time would have been long enough so they settled for forever.

Virginia is survived by her five children: Alfred F. Ortolani, Jr. and his wife Sherri, Debbie Grimaldi and her husband Gary, Jamie Ortolani and his wife Jenny, Dianna Holman and her husband Mike, and Jennifer Tavernaro and her husband Bobby. Her grandchildren filled her house with life and joy. They are: Kari Reeves and her husband Blane, Abbey Cummings and her husband Rob, Theresa Middleton and her husband Wes, Will Crozier, Tyler Allen, Joe Holman and his wife Ashton, Staci Allen and her fiancée Jordan, Nick Holman, Nate Grimaldi, Andrew Ortolani, Anna Holman, Olivia Tavernaro, Josh Ortolani, and Sullivan Tavernaro (Sully). Her great grandchildren brought another level of joy to Virginia. They are: Jackson Reeves, Ava Middleton, Rider Middleton,



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Kate Poling, Ayden Crozier, Grace Crozier, Jace Cummings, Elly Holman, and coming soon Baby Cummings. She is also survived by her loving sister, Delores Keiter and her husband Gene, and brother-in-laws, Frank Ortolani and his wife Rita, and Emil Ortolani and his wife Rosie, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00am Monday April 18, 2016 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Frontenac, KS with Fr. Thomas Stroot and Fr. Larry Parker as celebrants. Burial will follow at the Highland Park Cemetery in Pittsburg, KS. Rosary will be recited at 7:00pm Sunday April 17, 2016 at the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home in Pittsburg, KS; family will receive friends following the rosary. In lieu of flowers the family asks expressions of sympathy to be in the form of memorials to the St. Pius X Newman Center. Friends may drop off or mail memorials to the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home 522 S. Broadway Pittsburg, KS 66762. E-mail condolences may be left at www.bathnaylor.com. Arrangements are by Bath-Naylor Funeral Home of Pittsburg, KS.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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