



Gilda Lattanzio

February 26, 2023

(nee Guarino) Born to Eternal Life February 26, 2023 at the age of 103 years. Preceded in death by her husband Silvio and daughter Lucia. Survived by her children Maria Werning, Biagina Bruncllick and Eugene Lattanzio; grandchildren Kristin Friend, Lucia Werning and Sean Lattanzio; great-grandchild Damien Werning; sister-in-law Yolanda Cicanese; any many other relatives including Anna Cardone, Eda Portz, Rita Sabella, Gianni Salvatore, Silvano Salvatore, Nicola Cicanese and Guido Lattanzio. Also preceded in death by her sisters Ida Sabella, Maria Salvatore and Irma Guarino.

Special thanks to the staff of The Bay at St. Ann and St. Joseph Catholic Church for their accommodations and compassionate care.

Visitation Tuesday, March 7 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH (818 N. East Ave., Waukesha) followed by the celebration of Mass of Christian Burial at 12:00 PM. Entombment St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery to follow.

Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services
Lincoln Village Chapel
414-671-5200

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery - Waukesha

S22 W22890 Broadway Ave
Waukesha, WI 53186

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
818 N. East Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
818 N. East Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

Entombment

MAR 7. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Cemetery - Waukesha
S22 W22890 Broadway Ave
Waukesha, WI 53186

Tribute Wall

EL

“ Despite her small stature at less than 5 feet, my mother was a giant of moral courage and strength. Born in poverty in Italy, she became head of the household at age 11, after her mother died. She took the responsibility of raising her 3 sisters when most children her age experienced the normal joys of childhood. All this during the advent of the Great Depression when it became difficult to find enough food to prepare a decent meal.

She lived through the horrors of WWII but was able to survive and maintain her dignity. She often told me stories of her experiences during the war and I always listened intently. The recollection that struck me the most was the partisan story. When the axis forces retreated north the partisans swept into the village to settle scores with town officials and persons who sided with the other. As the armed partisans rounded up suspects my mother intervened and pleaded for restraint. At about the same time a group of English soldiers approached the crowd outside that had gathered. Gilda appealed to the English captain that the partisans should forego retribution against the suspects. After all, the war was coming to a close and there was no need for further bloodshed. The captain, who understood some Italian, agreed with Gilda and dispersed the gathering. I will never forget this story and I can only hope that I could act in similar fashion.

When Gilda moved to America with her husband Silvio and 2 surviving daughters life became more comfortable. But she continued to live frugally, preparing home cooked meals that were always delicious. She rarely dined out and neither did the rest of her family for obvious culinary reasons! I will always remember my mom and I will never forget her.

Eugenio C. Lattanzio - March 07, 2023 at 01:21 AM

JF

*Geno, old friend...I have only fond memories of your amazing and entertaining mom. I loved being in her house when you and Gina were there, and the interesting linguistic combinations you used to speak to one another in a mix of three languages !! God bless her eternal rest. --
Jim Fein*

Jim Fein - April 28, 2023 at 04:39 PM

DL

“ *Heartfelt Condolences Gina, Maria and Geno
Tim and Debbie Lander*

Debbie Lander - March 06, 2023 at 09:40 PM

PL

“ *My best friends mother ❤️ Gilda.. She had a good sense of humor. Gilda spoke Italian or Croatian to be exact and some broken English. So I'm thinking how am I to understand her well you just do. So many years of hearing Gina and Gilda talk I began to understand some things they were saying. Gilda was a very kind woman she loved children and her family. She like to garden, visit with friends. She loved remembering my kids at Christmas it's the simple things that I learned from her. She rarely complained and I admired her strength it was always hold your head up high no matter what. I too learned a lot from this special lady Gilda Lattanzio she will always hold a special place in my heart. My sincere condolences to the family Gina, Maria, Geno. Love to all 🙏❤️*

Paula Legault - March 06, 2023 at 06:39 PM

KL

“ I'm forever grateful to have had Gilda as my grandmother, she will always be my role model. My most treasured childhood memories are of our family trips to Wisconsin where we stayed at her house for several weeks every summer, I spent all year looking forward to them. Long lazy days filled with exploring the house, playing in her herb garden(not always agile enough to avoid crushing the basil, whoops), and getting chased with a wooden spoon whenever I got too rambunctious. She was the best cook ever too, everyone knows Italian grandmas can cook but she was on another level. The meals that came out of her tiny kitchen blew away any 5 star chef's offerings. And I'll never forget the times she babysat my uncle & cousin's dogs and made them bowls of spaghetti. So many priceless memories.

Most of all though, I admire her strength and resilience. She crossed the ocean on a steamship with only a trunk and two small children and forged a beautiful, thriving life here. I mourn her death, but moreso I celebrate her life and legacy. She is safe and happy in the great beyond with Grandpa Silvio now, and lives on forever in us and our memories.



Kristina Lattanzio - March 05, 2023 at 03:40 AM

GT

“ Gary Katorski & The FedEx Freight Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gilda Lattanzio.



Gary Katorski & The FedEx Freight Team - March 04, 2023 at 05:47 PM

LB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Great sorrow we cannot make it to the service, as we are out of town. Rest in peace Gilda.

Sincerely,
Rosato and Lena Bruni & Family

Lena Bruni - March 04, 2023 at 10:39 AM

BB

My mom was my best friend. I love her dearly. I will miss her more than anything. She made my life full. I loved hearing her stories and learned a lot about life from her. She was beautiful, smart, and kind. I love you mom, rest in peace❤️❤️❤️❤️

Biagina Lattanzio Brunclik - March 06, 2023 at 04:37 PM

PL

Love you my friend ❤️ Your mom was very endearing and has a special place in my heart.

Paula Legault - March 06, 2023 at 06:00 PM

MW

“ As the oldest daughter of this amazing woman, I could write a book of memories, each one close to my heart. My Mother was more than my perfect Mother, she was my hero...a pillar of strength and unconditional love. She had such a gift for story telling that it kept me and my siblings mesmerized every time. One particular story moved me to tears, even now as I write about it.. She told us about the horrors of war during WWII that she witnessed as a young woman. A huge battle between the German and the Allied forces took place in a field just north of her little village in central Italy, Acquaviva Collecroce. The Germans lost the battle with heavy casualties and fled, leaving the dead soldiers behind. The village Priest and a few of the men went to find the dead to bury them in dignity. My Grandfather was there to help. Two young German soldiers were found still alive, and the Priest asked my Grandfather to go get Gilda and another young woman capable to care for the two soldiers who were taken to an empty farmhouse in a secluded part further out of the village. This had to be done in total secrecy in case the Allied soldiers decided to occupy the village for a period of time to recoup. My Mother and her friend were given basic supplies and food to help the young soldiers. One of the them died during the night, and the other lived for another four days. My Mother remained at his side the whole time, praying the rosary while he slept and making the best soup when he awoke. He even got well enough to write a letter to his parents and asked my Mother to take the letter to the village priest so he could mail it to them after the war. He died later that night, with my Mother holding his hand. Every time she told us this story there would be a long silence before we all wept. This is the woman of strength, compassion and dignity that I call my MOTHER, my HERO---may she rest in peace...

Maria Werning - March 04, 2023 at 07:58 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Gilda Lattanzio*.



March 02, 2023 at 05:56 PM