



Marie Spalding

September 5, 1937 - April 18, 2021

Marie Spalding, age 83, of Kankakee passed away Sunday, April 18, 2021 at her home. She was born September 5, 1937 in Chicago, the daughter of Michael & Marie (Pinna) Coppola. Marie married Ted Spalding in 1957 at St. Edmund Catholic Church in Chicago. He preceded her in death on December 20, 2015.

Marie worked as an Administrative Assistant. She was an incredibly talented cook and loved to entertain. She enjoyed traveling the world with her husband. Marie enjoyed life and loved being a grandmother.

She was a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee.

Surviving are one son, Mike Spalding of Kankakee; one granddaughter, Madison Spalding; and one sister, Pat Champagne of River Forest. In addition to her husband, Marie is preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Maureen Spalding; and one brother, Michael Coppola.

Cremation rites have been accorded. There will be no public services. Private family inurnment will be held at a later date at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall



“ *Godiva Gold Ballotin (36 pc) was purchased for the family of Marie Spalding.* ”



June 14, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Marie Spalding.* ”



April 28, 2021 at 11:27 PM

EW

“*Marie (who I fondly always call "Auntie Rie") was a prominent figure in many of my childhood memories. My parents (David & Kathy) lived next to Auntie Rie and Ted when I was too young to have memories, and we moved away to Michigan when I was 2. But we certainly did go back and visit them a lot, as I recall so many fun times in Kankakee with them as a child! Auntie Rie and Ted were like my third set of grandparents. I fondly recall delicious meals of homemade macaroni and cheese in the kitchen, playing with their poodle, and being showered with American Girl gifts.*

Auntie Rie and Ted knew how to show me a good time in Chicago. I think all those memories visiting Shedd's Aquarium, American Girl store, Museum of Science and Industry, etc. were part of why I wanted to live there as an adult. When I graduated from college and fulfilled my childhood dream of living in Chicago, I sent them a letter to see how they were and if I could come down to Kankakee to say hello. In the busyness of my high school and college years, we had not kept in touch, but I was so excited with the hope of reconnecting. They enthusiastically welcomed me with open arms and spoiled me with amazing meals and hours of wonderful conversation. As I approached the house for the first time after being away for many years, I held my breath, hoping that things had not changed too much from my childhood memories. Of course, everything was exactly the same, just as cozy as I remembered. Auntie Rie sent me home with a huge bag of leftovers (including her mac and cheese) that kept me fed for about a week!

The last opportunity I had to visit her was a couple months before my wedding. I was so excited for my fiancée to meet the famous Auntie Rie! We had the most incredible day with her and her son Michael, and I will cherish the memories of that visit forever. They showered us with wine, incredible food, lively conversation, and unconditional love. I didn't want the day to end! In the 30 years I knew Auntie Rie, I always felt like I was part of the Spalding family. What a unique and truly incredible friendship.

-Erin Campbell Wagner

Erin Campbell Wagner - April 26, 2021 at 11:44 AM

KC

“ Marie was one of the most loving persons I have ever known. I was fortunate to have moved next door to Marie in 1991, and she quickly became one of my best friends. She was like a second mom to me. She took me and my 2-year-old daughter Erin under her wing, inviting us over to her house for play dates, cooking lessons, and conversation.

I have so many good memories of visits with her and Ted in their home. We would watch TV and eat popcorn, laugh, and I would listen to Marie's many stories. She taught me about cooking and often made delicious meals for us. She sewed beautiful dresses for Erin and a quilt and a Christmas tree skirt which we still use every year. She shared her love of collectible dolls with us.

Soon, my husband Dave, Erin and I moved to Michigan, but our friendship with the Spaldings continued. We often visited Marie and Ted in their home, and after my daughter Laura was born, she joined us and was loved and embraced by Marie as well. On these visits, Marie and Ted often took us to Chicago to see the Shedd Aquarium, The Field Museum, the American Girl store, and other fun places. And always, Marie would cook her delicious Italian meals, share her stories with us and make us feel so welcome. Marie was such a positive, loving, and influential woman in my life. I will always cherish the memories of her big heart and warm friendship that transcended the miles and the years. Going to visit Marie was like going home. You knew you would always be welcomed, embraced and loved.

Marie demonstrated to me a life well-lived; a life filled with love for others, while remaining true to her unique, opinionated, Italian self. I am better for having known her and blessed to have been her friend.

--Kathy Campbell

Kathy Campbell - April 22, 2021 at 09:05 PM

TK

“*My heart is aching with the loss of my beloved "Aunty." I cannot process that the world will go on without her in it. She was a loving aunt who doted on me, my brother, Paul (aka, Pauly) and Gina (aka. Gigi) the children of her brother, Michael Anthony Coppola. Aunty was smart, well-read , and wicked funny; especially when she would swoop in just in time to hear her telling my dad (her baby, brother), "Michael, please! They're just kids! Let 'em have a little fun!" I remember Thanksgiving parades and dinners, Christmas eves, and learning to make sfingis (looked forward to them ALL year). I remember that when she was about to lay down the law, she always started with, "Now, listen here..., or Well, that's just nuts!" followed by a wink. I remember that every time we spoke, whether in person or by phone, she'd always greet me with, "Hiya, Tami Sweetheart!" I remember having free run of her home where my cousins, siblings, and I would play, eat, and get shooed away from her amazing homemade bread, pasta, and other goodies that weren't quite ready. I remember her taking us on walks to the river behind her house. Most, of all, I remember listening intently to the vast library of family stories she shared with me while we cuddled on the couch looking at old photo albums that were as carefully curated as any museum. Aunty Marie was my rock; especially after my dad died in 1995 from raising my rambunctious brood of 3 baby boys, to being a Sicillian woman with value, to understanding that family is is the only thing worth a "damn." She knew everything about everthing; just ask her, she'd be happy to enlighten you. She was the family matriarch, the boss, an artisan in all things she touched; but most of all she was my Aunty Ree. Dear Aunty, God speed, rest with the angels, and kiss Dad, Reenie, Gram, and Grandpa for me. I love you and see ya next time!*



Tami Coppola Kisereu - April 21, 2021 at 10:03 AM