

AUDREY GRACE CAPUANO

Audrey Grace Capuano, age 96, was born on December 27, 1925, near Adelaide South Australia, and went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 30, 2022. She was born to Hubert and Elsie Westley. Audrey was married to Angelo Robert Capuano. She met Bob at a dance in her hometown of Strathalbyn, SA while he was serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Bob was deployed to New Guinea and the Philippines. Audrey and Bob married on August 29, 1944, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, Australia. While waiting to come to the U.S., Audrey knitted a sweater of the American Flag. Arriving in San Francisco on the U.S. Monterey in April 1946, Audrey was wearing the flag sweater and was photographed by reporters. She received a Hollywood welcome and was dubbed Betsy Ross the Second and was in both the Australian and American papers. The "Stars and Stripes" sweater is now displayed in the Maritime Museum in Sydney. Audrey and Bob are also featured in the book *All the Way to the USA: Australian WWII War Brides* by Robyn Arrowsmith. There were 15,000 Australian War Brides of American servicemen. After 60 years in 2007, these women were officially recognized in Washington DC as great ambassadors for good relations between the two countries. Audrey, her daughter Carol, and two granddaughters attended the celebration honoring War Brides. In 1950, Audrey helped to organize in Pittsburgh, PA the Australian War Bride's Club, which met for over 25 years. Audrey made 11 trips back to her homeland. In honor of her Australian heritage, she named one of her cats Kanga, and her beloved dog, Roo. Audrey is preceded in death by her husband, Angelo Robert; son, Paul; and her parents; two sisters; and a brother. She is survived by a daughter, Carol (David) of Lake Ariel, PA; sons, Robert (Eileen) of Pittsburgh, PA, and Gary (Robin) of Austin, Texas; seven granddaughters; 11 great-grandchildren; and brother, Peter (Judy) in Adelaide, South Australia. A family memorial will be conducted this summer. Audrey requested that part of her ashes be sent back to her hometown of Strathalbyn, where they will be laid to rest in the river in the town's park. Professional services entrusted to **THOMAS M. SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD.** www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb