

KATHLEEN RUTH (ORGILL) FERRI



A longtime resident of Turtle Creek, and also of Wilmerding and Point Pleasant in North Versailles, age 96, passed away peacefully in East Petersburg, PA on July 25, 2023. Born on July 29, 1926, to parents Joseph T. and Helen (McCoy) Orgill, Kathleen was known for her warm heart, creative spirit, and friendly demeanor. On August 20, 1946, in St. Anselm Church, Swissvale, Kathleen married the love of

her life, James B. Ferri. Their marriage, spanning 39 beautiful years, was filled with love, laughter, and the joy of raising their four children. She is survived by her children, Linda Ferri (late Richard) Basciano of Lancaster, Bruce Ferri and his wife Donna Ashton Ferri of Hummelstown, Vince Ferri and his wife Violet Garrick Ferri of Turtle Creek, and David Ferri and his wife Susan Adam Ferri of East Petersburg. Loving grandmother to ten grandchildren, Jeff (Jessica) Basciano, Kevin Basciano (deceased) and Kelly Basciano (Keith) Brazzo, Christopher (Amber) Ferri, Jillian Ferri (Kevin) Smith, Victor Ferri, Valerie Ferri (Max) Theis, Melissa Ferri, Daniel (Maggie) Ferri and Christine Ferri (John) Myers.

And proud great-grandmother of 12: Caitlin and Julia Basciano, Abigail Basciano, Marina, Samantha and Brandon Brazzo, Michael Ferri, Nathan Moore, Kaylee and Jimmy Ferri, Amelia and Parker Ferri.

Kathleen is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her siblings and their spouses, Dorothy (Dayton) Lockard, Kenneth (Emma) Orgill, Ronald (Bonnie) Orgill, Barney (Dolores) Orgill and Patricia (Jack) Brown.

After raising her children, Kathleen embarked on a career as a teller for Dollar Bank in Monroeville, later moving to Mellon Bank in Turtle Creek. In her late fifties, following the loss of her beloved husband Jim, Kathleen discovered a passion for art. She used her grief as a catalyst, turning to the canvas to capture the historical images of the Turtle Creek Valley, including her beloved hometown of Turtle Creek, and also Wilmerding, East Pittsburgh, Braddock, North Braddock, Kennywood and the city of Pittsburgh. Her vibrant, nostalgic portrayals, even though an untrained artist, sparked memories for all who viewed her work, earning her the affectionate title of "The Grandma Moses of Pittsburgh". She became very accomplished as an artist and won many awards and blue ribbons at varied art shows. Kathleen's talent was recognized by many, with her art being purchased by Teresa Heinz and also being displayed at prestigious locations such as Nemaquin and The Rivers of Steel Museum in Homestead. But her creativity did not stop at her colorful painting. Kathleen was also a storyteller, preserving the history of Turtle Creek and its valley neighbors through her written and spoken words. She compiled pages of memories that depicted true events, places, and people, and she frequently volunteered as a local history teacher and served as a docent at the former Westinghouse Museum in Wilmerding. Remembered for her thoughtful nature, Kathleen's legacy extends beyond her artwork and historical contributions. Her friendly spirit and creative soul touched everyone she met, leaving an indelible mark on the community she loved so dearly. Her memory will continue to inspire, and her art will serve as a vivid reminder of a woman who used her talents to capture and share the beauty of her world. Kathleen will be deeply missed by her loving family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Friends are welcome on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC., TURTLE CREEK / MONROEVILLE CHAPEL**, 1111 Monroeville Ave., Turtle Creek, 412-823-9350.

Mass of Christian Burial will be in St. Colman Church, Turtle Creek (St. Joseph the Worker Parish) on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Kathleen will be laid to rest on her 97th birthday in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to: Rivers of Steel, 623 East 8th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120 (www.riversofsteel.com) or Compassus Hospice, 2101 Oregon Pike, Suite 300, Lancaster, PA 17601 (www.compassus.com).

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb