

# MARCELLA "MARCIE" JEAN (JUBECK) FILIAGGI



Marcella Jean Filiaggi, known to her loved ones as Marcie, passed away peacefully on October 6, 2023, at the age of 81, in Pittsburgh, PA. She was born on August 19, 1942, at the family home in Isabel, PA, Fayette County.

Marcie Filiaggi came from humble beginnings in Tower Hill #2, Merrittstown, PA and was a 2nd generation American. She often regaled people with stories of growing up in a coal mining "patch town" that did not have indoor plumbing until she was a senior in high school. She was the only daughter and middle child of 5 born to Peter and Anna Mae Jubeck. Marcie quickly became "the Sarge" to her 4 brothers, Peter, Wick, Barry and Tom who revered and supported her always. She (and they) credit this early "leadership" role as the beginning of her remarkable and successful life.

The first generation of her family to attend college, Marcie graduated from California State Teachers College. Her original plan was to be a nurse, but when she did not get into nursing school, she took the advice of her trusted mentor, Helen Burnes, and became a teacher with a degree in Special Education.

In 1967, shortly after beginning work in the Uniontown Area School District, Marcie met and married local boy and love of her life, Ronald Filiaggi. Fun fact: she actually met Ron while on an awkward blind date with his brother Rich.

Marcie and Ron briefly moved to Ohio to start a Sir Pizza restaurant. Both of their children were born in Ohio. They moved back to PA and settled in the North Hills where their legacy together began. Each resumed their teaching careers, Marcie at Cumberland Hills School in McCandless, PA and Ron with the City of Pittsburgh.

She cherished her time as an educator at Cumberland Hills School for Special needs students (part of North Allegheny School District) and often included her family in events at the school. Upon the closing of Cumberland in 1987, Marcie was asked by her friend, Carol Mitchell, to come and teach at her new school, the Verland Foundation, a school for students with severe intellectual and physical disabilities. She never truly left Verland because she brought its mission of serving the area's most vulnerable to her beloved church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Through the SJN Verland Ministries Outreach program, Marcie sent dedicated volunteers, including SJN's Pastor, Fr. William Bovard, to the school each week to say Mass and provide activities for the residents. This ministry continued for decades with the help of her many friends, most notably Andy James and the late Peggy Garboosian.

Marcie then moved on to teach at the Dorseyville Middle School, Fox Chapel School District, to lead their Special Education program and oversee the transition of its students into what is now the mainstream curriculum. She retired as a 7th grade English teacher at Dorseyville. In a full circle moment, Marcie is remembered fondly by her grandchildren's North Allegheny 4th grade teacher, Patrick Frank, as one of his most inspiring teachers in Fox Chapel, giving him Lee Iacocca's Autobiography. She had a habit of giving all her students, and others, books that she thought would personally benefit them.

Of course, we cannot overlook her contributions to the North Hills business community. Marcie was a founding member of Sir Pizza, a family-owned restaurant operating in the North Hills of Pittsburgh since 1975. Her brother Pete Jubeck started the chain in Muncie, Indiana and gave his sister Marcie, her husband Ron, brother and sister-in-law Rich and Sandy the rights to Pennsylvania and it is still family-run today. Although she did not take part in the day-to-day retail operation because she was teaching and raising a family, Marcie was often heard reminding people that "If it wasn't for her, Sir Pizza would not have come to Pittsburgh."

Marcie was generous with her time and gifts, both financial and talent. She was passionate about helping those who she thought were underserved people in her community and that passion extended to her fierce advocacy for women and education. She belonged to the North Hills Pittsburgh Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). She proudly served in many leadership roles including President and Policy Director. She also received the Branch Outstanding Woman Award. She wrote a letter to the Branch revealing that joining the group was a "wonderful experience that created within me a newfound wisdom, many wonderful new friends, and most of all a renewal of strength and energy to continue growing. I will be forever grateful for my relationship with AAUW."

Marcie's religious spirit was dedicated to St. John Neumann Church (Regina Coeli Parish) since its start in 1979. As per her usual "can do" philosophy, Marcie and her father-in-law, Mike Filiaggi were a part of the original building committee that literally knocked on doors in the community to raise funds for the church building that was ultimately erected in 1982. She was a lector, Eucharistic Minister, choir member, Vacation Bible School leader and CCD teacher.

As many will attest, Marcie Filiaggi not only had endless energy for her "crusades" of care and compassion, but she had a knack of convincing her vast network of family and friends to join her in these endeavors. She used to say that "although life isn't fair, we should all do our part to even the playing field." Few people refused her requests, and many felt immensely rewarded by her friendship.

Marcie's home and heart were always open to her family and community. She was very generous to those around her who had stumbled upon hard luck, lacked basic necessities, or just seemed to need a little something. She made everyone feel like family and all were welcome at her and Ron's table. She also loved a good party and was a very sociable person. Marcie enjoyed chatting over a glass of wine, getting entrenched in a competitive game of dominos or cards and never passed on an opportunity to dance with her husband, laugh with friends and cook for dozens of people. She will be missed, but her spirit and legacy will live on in her family and all those she touched. She led a life beyond her wildest dreams, "from outhouse to Buckingham Palace," her daughter used to say and "she never shied away from sharing her path in life."

Marcie will be deeply missed by her husband of 56 years, Ronald M. Filiaggi, her children Suzanne M. Filiaggi (Mark Foerster) and Dr. Richard Filiaggi (Dr. Kathleen), her grandchildren Nicholas, Margaret, and Anna Bridges, and Massimiliano, Severino, and Lena Filiaggi. She is also survived by her brothers Wick (Sue) and Barry (Sue) Jubeck, her brother and sister-in-law Richard and Sondra Filiaggi, and numerous loving nieces and nephews.

Marcie's legacy of compassion, advocacy, and dedication will live on in the hearts of her family and all those she touched. She will be remembered as a remarkable woman who made a difference in her community and inspired others to do the same.

A memorial service and Mass of Christian Burial will be held to honor Marcie's life on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 11:00 am at St. John Neumann Church (Regina Coeli Parish). Family and friends are invited to pay their respects between 10:00 am and 11:00 am in the Narthex of the church.

The family asks for NO flowers please. In lieu of flowers, the Filiaggi family has established the Marcella J. Filiaggi Scholarship Fund with AAUW. Contributions can be made to AAUW North Hills Pittsburgh Branch, mailed to: June Maier, 959 Broad Meadow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Please include "Marcella J. Filiaggi Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](mailto:post-gazette.com/gb)