

## MARY H. GAGIANAS



Age 90, died on February 11, 2024, at the Providence Point Healthcare Center, holding hands with her devoted husband John of 65 years, and surrounded by four generations of loved ones. Mary was born in 1933 in Boston, Massachusetts to Harry and Helen (Ornerakis) Sampanis. Family was everything to Mary. She enjoyed a well-lived faithful life of serving others, leaving us a legacy of love and a

blueprint for a life devoted to family, faith and friends. Her legendary smile, friendly personality, generous spirit and humble heart will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

During her school years, Mary, along with her brother George, helped their Greek immigrant parents in their restaurant. She was also a secretary at BF Goodrich, and was active in her Orthodox faith and church. She joined the church choir, taught Sunday School, and participated in the church youth group.

Mary met her true love, John, at a Greek Orthodox Young Adult (GOYA) Convention in Boston. They married in 1958, and had four children in five years. They first lived in New Jersey and Kansas, and then settled in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. As a full-time mom, Mary raised her four children with full attention and unconditional love. She nurtured and supported them with their extremely active schedules and interests, and volunteered whenever a need arose. As years passed, her widowed mother Helen moved in with them, and Mary selflessly became her devoted caretaker. Mary was especially blessed to see her "children's children" and develop a loving relationship with each of her twelve grandchildren. With joy, she traveled near and far, celebrating each one, never missing a sporting event, concert, performance or play!

With her friends, Mary enjoyed bridge, golf, bowling and lunch dates at Panera, and participating in the philanthropic and social activities of the Philoptochos Society at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

Mary's Greek heritage was embedded in her heart. She kept close contact with her beloved family members in Greece. She joined some of her children and grandchildren on trips to Greece, providing them with the priceless opportunity to personally connect with their Greek relatives and culture.

Last May, Mary's family celebrated her incredible 90 years of life. Through Mary's lifelong nurturing and by the grace of God, the entire family continues to be a tight-knit group. The children attribute this to John and Mary's model of unselfish love. Mary was delighted to usher in a new generation to the family, with five great-grandchildren, and two more on the way! She is a beautiful role model to her family. We will miss being warmed by her beautiful smile and strengthened by the whisper of her heartfelt "I Love You".

The family appreciates all the great care Mary received by the staffs at Providence Point and Gallagher Hospice, and the spiritual support from Father Michael Kallaur, Father John Touloumes and lifelong spiritual father and friend, Father John Chakos.

In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her father Harry and mother Helen (Ornerakis). Surviving, in addition to her husband John, is her brother George (Carol); daughters Helen (Doug) Murray, and Irene (Bob) Clare, and sons Peter (Theanne) Gagianas and Nick (Tammy) Gagianas; her twelve grandchildren Nicholas (Alyssa) Gagianas, Eleni (William) Walsh, Yianni (Marika) Gagianas, Christopher (Elizabeth) Gagianas, Paul (Despina) Murray, Georgia Gagianas (fiancé Thomas Perry), John Clare, Lia Gagianas (fiancé Zachary Moore), Jacob Murray, Michael Clare, Dimitri (Maria) Gagianas, Matthew Clare; and her great-grandchildren Lucy Gagianas, Photini Murray, Claire Gagianas, Stavros Gagianas, and Panayioti Murray.

Arrangements by **BEINHAUER FUNERAL HOME**. Viewing: Sunday, February 18, 2024, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Mt. Lebanon. Trisagion Service at 5:00 p.m. Funeral: Monday, February 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. viewing preceding the Funeral Service 11:00 a.m. Funeral Service at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church. Burial: Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Those who wish to remember Mary in a special way may make gifts in her memory to either:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church (Building Fund), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228; or Ronald McDonald House Charities - Philadelphia Region, 3925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3110, <https://www.rmhcphilly.org/donate/>.

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