

LOIS MARY (REITH) COLE



Age 93, peacefully in her sleep, on April 23, 2024. Daughter of the late Joseph and Olivia Reith of Troy Hill. Wife to John Altman Cole, deceased. Beloved mother to Karen Kennedy (John), John Altman Cole Jr. (Karen), Timothy Joseph Cole (Karen Summers) and Gregory Paul Cole (deceased). Grandmother to Laura Allenbaugh (Josh), Elizabeth Cole Kodikara (Tim), Patricia Cole, Amber Steinmetz Cole (Jason Melvin), Dylan Cole and Emma Kennedy. Great-grandmother to Gregory Dylan Cole, Hunter Easton Cole, Ava June Cole, Violet Allenbaugh, Amara Cole Kodikara and Lovindu Cole Kodikara. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Lois Cole was a beloved, active participant in every phase of her life, from family to church to community. Lois was dedicated to her four children. She was smart, attractive, and confident, so it was no surprise that she wound up as a leader in every organization she joined. She had leadership positions in every school's PTA, and was a prominent member of the North Hills Marching Band's Instrumental Parents. After her son Greg's accident, she became an outspoken member of the Spinal Cord Society, helping with fundraising and public awareness.

Lois loved to make things beautiful. The daughter of a union carpenter, she relished refinishing furniture and repurposing old things to make them new again. She took great pride in her home in North Hills Estates. She hung wallpaper, painted, and scouted out the perfect accent pieces in antique shops. When she moved in her 70's to a condo at the Charlemagne, she continued her painting and wallpapering, making every square inch reflect her decorative flair.

She took part in St. Theresa Church's musical productions, and sang in the church choir and the Resurrection Choir. When the church acquired a "new/old" pipe organ, she was thrilled to help to restore the console. Lois was familiar with every antique shop in Western Pennsylvania and the southern tier of New York, honing skills that she would later employ when running the "antique" department for the annual St. Theresa Flea Market. It was a running joke in her family to see how early in the year the word "flea" first came up. For Lois, the countless hours she spent there were fun, and her merchandising skills made her department a must-see for everyone. She was famous for her hats, gaudy jewelry, giant earrings, and name tags ranging from Sophia Loren to Julie Andrews.

She had a close set of friends, "the Golden Girls," with whom she traveled to many exotic places. For several years, her family wondered why it took six women to babysit one five-pound Yorkie on the Isle of Palm while his owners were away. Closer to home, she enjoyed many summer evenings at the family cabin at Lake Erie, watching the sunsets and sipping a Manhattan next to a bonfire. When she could not travel much, she enjoyed watching Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, and the evening news with Lester Holt and her beloved Anderson Cooper 360. Her children could not get enough of her potato pancakes. She estimated once that she had baked well over 200 angel food cakes to celebrate her children's birthdays.

Always a diva, always beloved. She will be greatly missed.

Viewing will be at **DEVLIN FUNERAL HOME**, 806 Perry Hwy on Friday, April 26, from 2-4 and 6-8. Mass of Christian Burial will be at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel St. Theresa Church, 800 Avila Ct. at 10:00 on Saturday, April 27.

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