

## RITA (FRAGOMENI) LAVELLA



Lifelong resident of East McKeesport, age 86, passed away on Sunday, August 4, 2024.

Born the daughter of the late Carl Fragomeni and the late Santa (Bevacqua) Fragomeni. Beloved wife of the late Mario Lavella; loving mother of Benedetto "Benny" (Beth Banas) Lavella of East McKeesport; cherished grandmother of Cassandra Lavella of North Versailles; adored sister of Frank (Esperanza) Fragomeni, John (Kathleen) Fragomeni, Virginia (late William) Bartges, Amelia (John) Faith, and Anne (John) Fink.

Preceded in death by her sisters, Sylvia Fragomeni and Mary Rose (late Samuel) Santangelo. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Rita was a graduate of Westinghouse High School and the Community College of Allegheny County. Following her graduation, she embarked on a career with East Allegheny High School as an administrative assistant. Throughout her career, Rita worked in several of the different school buildings, and would later retire after over 40 years of service to the district. She dedicated over 20 years of her life as a member of the East McKeesport Borough Council, the town in which she was proud to have been a lifelong resident. Rita was a devout Catholic and longtime member of St. Colman Church in Turtle Creek, where she also volunteered as an usher.

She was also a member of the Christian Mothers Association affiliated with St. Robert Bellarmine Church. Rita enjoyed painting, reading mystery novels, and taking cruises and vacations with her family and friends. Rita was a voracious sweet tooth who also loved going out to eat. She jokingly would judge any restaurant on their ability to offer bread and fresh decaf coffee to accompany her meal. Many will remember Rita for her strong will, her sense of humor, and the overwhelming dedication she gave to her family.

Friends are welcome Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. and Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.**, Turtle Creek / Monroeville Chapel, 1111 Monroeville Ave., Turtle Creek, 412-823-9350. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at St. Colman Church of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Rita will be laid to rest in Good Shepherd Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Rita's name to Angels' Place, 2538 Woodstock Ave., Pgh., PA 15218.

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