

SUSAN DEE RIGHI



Of Paradise Valley, AZ, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 2, 2024, with her husband John at her side. Dee Dee, as she was known to her family and friends, was born on December 14, 1940, in New Kensington, PA to Georgia and James Heid. She was the baby sister to Georgia Ann Heid and Betty Jean Choltco, and elder sister to James Heid, Jr. Dee Dee was a member of the first graduating class of New Kensington High School in New Kensington, PA. She was married to John V. Righi in 1962. Dee Dee and John grew up in the foothills northeast of Pittsburgh just a few short miles from each other. They were introduced by Dee Dee's older sister Betty, and stuck together, through thick and thin, for over 60 years until Dee Dee's passing. Shortly after they married, Dee Dee and John left the Pittsburgh area to spread their wings. Their ambitions led them to Rochester, NY, where Dee Dee worked as an administrative assistant with Kodak. Dee put her career on hold in 1967 when she was blessed with her first son, Richard. Dee and John's continued pursuit of success led them to King of Prussia, PA, where they were blessed with a second son, Robert, in 1971. They relocated again to Timonium, MD, and then settled in Worthington, OH in 1976. Dee was a loving mother, wife, and valued business partner to her husband John. While raising her boys, she helped John establish a successful business that eventually led the family to Paradise Valley, AZ in 1992. Her sons grown; Dee pursued a second career as a realtor for Sotheby's/Russ Lyon Realty. After 15 successful years, Dee retired happily in 2015. Her family, friends and colleagues knew Dee as a kind soul. She always exuded a sweet spirit that warmed the hearts of everyone she knew. Her sons, who affectionately called her "Mother Dear," will remember her as a devoted mother who taught them the old fashion values of hard work, accountability and fairness. Above all, she taught her sons how to love, and to treat every person with kindness. Dee Dee is survived by her husband, John; sons, Richard and Robert; her grandchildren, Carter, Alex, ChristyAnn and Charlie; great-granddaughter, Ellie; her daughter-in-law and caregiver, Shannon Righi; granddaughter, Libby; daughter-in-law, Lanie, who all looked forward to "Granny" Dee's sweet smile and loving presence. Dee Dee was famous to those who knew the family as an amazing cook and baker. In many ways, her recipes reflected her journey through life - combining her family's roots from Germany and the United Kingdom with John's Italian heritage. Her recipe book will remain a priceless treasure of dishes that tantalized three generations of family and friends. Dee Dee was a classy lady with a huge heart and sincere essence who made a positive and indelible impact on everyone she knew. She is dearly missed. A celebration of life is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 4 p.m. in the Arcadia Room at Arizona Country Club. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributing to Hospice of the Valley (hov.org), or The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (crohnscolitisfoundation.org). Arrangements are in the care of **MESSINGER MORTUARY**, Scottsdale, Arizona.

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