



## Carmela "Millie" Shirley Duda

May 13, 1935 - January 16, 2025

Carmela "Millie" Shirley Duda, of Browns Mills, passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family. She was 89. Born in New York City, NY; the daughter of the late Antonio and Concetta (Stabile) LaSala.

Millie was adored by so many people and touched so many lives. She was a jubilant, caring, loving, and generous woman who loved a good celebration. Her heart was so big and she had empathy like no other. After graduating high school in the Bronx, her first job was at Columbia Pictures in Manhattan. Then, briefly moved to Virginia. In an effort to explore, she decided to join the Army where she met the love of her life, Bill, in Paris. Six months later, they became married in the Bronx and flew back to Paris. Once back in Paris it was not long before their daughter Annemarie was born and then their son William, after being transferred to California. Soon, they were stationed in Germany for four years where they explored countless countries and saw things that most people do not get to see in a lifetime. Millie was an incredibly dedicated mother and adored her grandchildren. She instilled strong morals, importance of education, exploring different hobbies and interests. Millie was an accomplished seamstress who made slipcovers, drapes, and clothing. She also was also excellent at shorthand, baking, knitting, gardening, and cared about the environment. She even dabbled in guitar, piano and clarinet lessons. Millie was a deeply religious woman and involved in activities including: Red Hat Society, Alter Rosary, President of Sadalily while in the

military, Catechism Teacher, Girl Scout Leader, Eucharistic Minister, Home Health Aide, and a Red Cross Certificate. She also earned an Interior Design Certificate through LaSalle University. Millie vacationed with her family and visited many distant places with her son, daughter, grandchildren, and son-in-law. She also loved to just have companionship with all the friends that she made along the way. She will be missed by so many people, more than we could ever count.

Millie was the devoted wife of 30 years to William Paul Duda, who preceded her in death in 1985 and her sister, Marie Iezzi.

Millie is survived by her children, Annemarie Sitzler (William) and William Duda, II; grandchildren, Katie and Jake Sitzler.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her viewing on Tuesday, January 21 from 6-8 PM at Perinchief Chapels, 438 High St., Mt. Holly. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 22 at 11 AM at St. Ann's Church, 22 Trenton Road, Browns Mills, NJ 08015. Memorial contributions can be made in Millie's memory to Susan G. Komen Foundation ([www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)) or plant a tree in Millie's honor at [www.alivingtribute.org](http://www.alivingtribute.org)

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JAN 21. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels  
438 High St.  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-0399

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church  
22 Trenton Road  
Browns Mills , NJ 08015

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ I worked with Miss Millie at Fort Dix. Millie was the friendliest, most lovable person, every day, always smiling & joyful. I now know that was the Joy of our Lord shining thru her and in her. She was beautiful & such a good friend. She would bring Dona & I "goodies" from a bakery or some new place she had discovered. Millie's birthday is the day before my mom's & I sent her birthday cards & Christmas cards for years after we moved from Ft dix. And she sent me thank you cards for remembering her birthday. What a beautiful friend! I know she is spreading her joy in Heaven with Jesus!

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**Debbie Scott** - March 30 at 11:29 AM

VH

“ For almost forty years, my mother, Anne Palazzo, has regarded "Millie" as her best friend. My Mom, now 97, says that no one could ever make her laugh so much, as did Millie. I remember countless times when I would see and hear their giggling (usually over something silly or goofy) and it ended up becoming roaring laughter. Millie was the best medicine for my Mom's soul...they were soulmates! Millie visited my Mom frequently, especially after Mom moved into a 55-Plus community in Whiting, in 2000. It was only 20 minutes from Country Lakes. With her generous heart, Millie always brought a sweet token of her friendship and love for my Mom. She usually arrived with a charming bouquet of flowers, a cute "holiday" memento, birthday goodies or balloons.

Occasionally, Millie would leave a little gift on Mom's front stoop, then quickly drive away, knowing that when Mom would find it, the thoughtful gift would put a big smile on Mom's face. Oh, yes, they could (and did) talk with each other on the phone, for hours! Often Mom and Millie would pray together. Together they enjoyed attending Catholic Mass services in various local churches, meeting new friends, wherever they went. Mom has been missing Millie's visits, since they both became ill a few years ago. My brother, Rick, who has lived with Mom since 2013, and I, her daughter, Valerie, will greatly miss seeing the pure joy that Millie gave to our Mom. We were all blessed to have Millie in our life.

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**Valerie Hairrell** - January 22, 2025 at 04:44 PM

KP

“ Millie was my neighbor in Browns Mills for 8 years. They were a loving and great family. Amy her daughter and our Natalie are best of friends growing up and still are to this day. So sorry for your loss Will, Amy and family. Our prayer are with you. Sincerely Kathy and Mark Pietras

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**Kathy Pietras** - January 21, 2025 at 12:12 PM

LF

“ Love, Anne Palazzo and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Carmela "Millie" Shirley Duda.



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**Love, Anne Palazzo and Family** - January 20, 2025 at 05:14 PM

MR

“ Celebrating the life of a wonderful person.  
R.I.P. Millie and mourning her passing.



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**marla Ramirez** - January 19, 2025 at 06:56 PM

CF

“ Cathy & Harold Herbert & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carmela "Millie" Shirley Duda.



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**Cathy & Harold Herbert & Family** - January 19, 2025 at 03:56 PM