



Frances "Fran" Elizabeth Solitro

June 2, 1936 - May 18, 2026

Frances ("Fran") Elizabeth Solitro of Bradenton, Florida, passed away peacefully at home on May 18, 2026, surrounded by the people and animals she loved most. She was 89 years old.

Born on June 2, 1936, in Providence, Rhode Island, to Michael and Nancy (Di Mauro) Solitro, Fran carried the spirit of New England with her wherever life took her, especially her lifelong devotion to the Boston Red Sox.

A true self-made woman ahead of her time, Fran built and owned successful restaurant chains through hard work, sharp instincts, and unwavering determination, retiring in her 50s after an accomplished business career. [L] [SEP]

[L] [SEP]

Though successful, she remained remarkably humble, never seeking recognition for her achievements or generosity. Fran believed deeply in quietly and sincerely helping others, giving without ever expecting anything in return. [L] [SEP]

[L] [SEP]

She gave from the heart, supporting countless charitable causes and community organizations. She later found a deeply supportive spiritual home at the Metropolitan Community Church, where she was a dedicated member and benefactor for many years.

Fran was known for her quick wit, sharp sense of humor, and fiercely loyal heart. She was the kind of friend who showed up, stood by you, and never forgot those she loved. [L] [SEP]

[L] [SEP]

Her compassion extended far beyond people. She was committed to rescuing poodles, opening both her home and her heart to dogs in need. Her beloved poodles, Callie and Remy, brought her endless comfort and joy.

Throughout her life, Fran enjoyed tennis and golf, and later found happiness in reading, gardening, jigsaw puzzles, and traveling the world. Yet no matter how far she traveled, some of her happiest moments were at home, watching the Boston Red Sox — win or lose — with a poodle curled up beside her. [L] [SEP]

[L] [SEP]

Above all, Fran's heart belonged to her family and her home. She was an incredibly devoted partner, a protective aunt, and a joyful presence in the lives of her relatives.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Bella Ferretti and Anna Mazzone.

She is survived by her loving spouse of 49 years, Ann Vassilaros; her beloved poodles, Callie and Remy; and many cherished family members, dear friends, and all those fortunate enough to experience her kindness, humor, and generosity.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 6 at 2:00 p.m. at Church of the Trinity, 7255 N. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Fran's memory to Florida Poodle Rescue (P.O. Box 7336, St. Petersburg, FL 33734) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Fran leaves behind a legacy of resilience, loyalty, compassion, and quiet generosity — a life beautifully lived and deeply felt by everyone who knew her.

Upcoming Events

A Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Trinity
7255 N. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34243

Tribute Wall

NR

“ Auntie will always be in our hearts.. we love you Ann. You were there taking care of her for so long, made sure she had whatever she needed. Your angel will now be watching over you...we did see the rainbow tonight... it was a sign she is watching over all of us. We love you Ann ❤️

Nancy Ruggieri - 2 hours ago



“ Ann you are a devoted partner by her side right to the end. We love you, sending love & support. Fly high Auntie you will be missed.

Deb Mazzone - 2 hours ago