



Kathryn Ann "Kay" Pezzillo

July 28, 1929 - September 24, 2020

Kay Pezzillo of Sarasota, Florida passed away at the age of 91, surrounded by her loving family on September 24, 2020. Kay was born on July 28, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA to the late Jean and Robert Holmes. She is preceded in death by her first born son Stephen Pezzillo and second born son Michael Pezzillo. Kay is survived by her loving husband of 69 years Al Pezzillo, her eldest daughter Annie Holmes-Inserra, son-in-law Robert Inserra, youngest daughter Kathy LaPietra and son-in-law Bill LaPietra, grandchildren Claudia and Ross LaPietra, sister Rosemary Lambert and brother-in-law Gary Lambert, brother Bob Holmes and sister-in-law Diane, and brother-in-law Joe Haines.

Growing up in the community of West Oak Lane, Philadelphia, Kay first met her future husband Al in grade school at age 13. They subsequently fell in love during late high school years and were married on June 16th, 1951. Over the years, Kay lived with her family in many memorable locales including the Army town of DeRidder, Louisiana, Bucks County PA, Rockland and Westchester Counties in NY, two wonderful and adventurous years in Mexico City, Mexico, followed by two decades in Smoke Rise and Mendham, NJ. When Al retired in 1992 they moved to Florida, first to Longboat Key, followed by The Oaks in Osprey and eventually settled at the Glenridge at Palmer Ranch. For 14 years Kay lived a happy, carefree and productive life and made countless friends at Glenridge.

Other than the love of family and friends, painting was the greatest passion of Kay's life. For over six decades she produced a vast number of glorious oil and watercolor paintings. She was the recipient of numerous awards of excellence for her art work and often donated her paintings in support of charitable organizations. In addition, family members and many friends have their own mini galleries of Kay's work on display in their homes.

Kay and Al shared a love of travel and were blessed with many opportunities to see the world. Travel highlights include a trip around the world on the Concord, a safari in Africa, exploring Europe with family and friends and numerous cruises both domestic and international. She cherished the memories of meeting people of different cultures and seeing the natural beauty of land and seascapes which often served as inspiration for her artwork.

Kay had a giving and compassionate spirit and devoted much of her time in Sarasota to volunteer work. For years she could be seen delivering meals to the home bound through the local Meals On Wheels program, ringing the bells for holiday donations for the Salvation Army, helping to combat hunger with the All Faiths Food Bank, and financially supporting the work of Habitat for Humanity with the building of a home for a family in need.

Kay also placed great emphasis on eating well and staying fit. For many years she participated in group exercise classes at Glenridge and in recent years never missed a daily routine of morning walks, stretching and yoga at home. Because of her agility and high spirits, she was the life of any party, loved to dance and was known as a fabulous dancer.

Kay offered tremendous love and support to her family and to all those fortunate enough to have her as a friend. She had a devoted faith in

Catholicism and had a special affinity with Saint Jude and his role as Patron Saint of desperate cases and loss causes.

No words can adequately express the tremendous sorrow and grief we feel for the loss of our beloved Kay. May she rest in peace. Amen.

A Mass will held at 9:30 am on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at Saint Thomas Moore Catholic Church located at 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota. The internment of blessed ashes to follow in "Mary's Garden" located on the church grounds. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kay's memory to the National Shrine of St. Jude (The Claretians) 205 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60606 and/or ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mary Lou Ludwig, John and Linda Macaskill purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Kathryn Ann "Kay" Pezzillo.*



Mary Lou Ludwig, John and Linda Macaskill - October 04, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kathryn Ann "Kay" Pezzillo.*



October 03, 2020 at 06:08 PM



“ I can’t help smiling when I think of Mrs. Pezzillo, or Aunt Kay, who with Uncle Al was such a big part of my adolescence and teenage years growing up with her daughter Kathy in Smoke Rise. I can hear Aunt Kay giggling as she was being affectionately teased, and when she teased back and landed a well-placed zinger. Now I realize that she knew more about what we were up to during those years than she let on, but she was always kind and did not scold or judge (I won’t forget the fruit salad subterfuge).

She and Uncle Al made a great team, and their household was unendingly welcoming and fun – with artwork all around, a pool out back and a big shaggy dog. I miss Aunt Kay and Uncle Al and my dear friend Kathy and family, and I will always remember Kay full of life and charm and humor.

Sending much love to her family and friends, y abrazos fuertes,
Lorraine Orlandi, with Gina and Jake

Lorraine Orlandi - October 03, 2020 at 06:00 PM

BK

“ We were so very sorry to her of the loss of Ms.Pezzillo, a wonderful, kind, talented, generous cheery inspiring, truly genuine lady who I remember so fondly from my teenage years. We were always so welcome at the Pezzillo home and will always remember the smiles, laughter and parties at the Pezzillo’s, a true warmth radiated and they welcomed all as family who walked through the door. In later years, I remember the move to Mendam and the beautiful paintings Mrs. P. crafted focusing on the new wooded environment, what talent she had that has unquestionably been passed on to her talented daughter, Kathy. While I know this is such a moment of sadness, a happy thought is envisioning Ms. P now free to paint her masterpieces in the heavens surrounded by all the angels and relatives that have predeceased her.

Our love to all the Pezzillo’s in this time of sorrow, you are all in our hearts and thoughts.

Love,

Barbara Hopkinson Kelly (Kevin,Ryan,Allison)

Barbara Hopkinson Kelly - October 02, 2020 at 05:22 PM

AP

“ Although I did not have the fortune of knowing Kay personally, I do know that she was a wonderful human being and an amazing mother- as she raised my long time friend, Kathy— a daughter who in turn is a wonderful mother; sharing many of Kay’s passions for painting, travel, yoga, and volunteer work. How lucky I feel to have Kathy in my life and in turn, a big part of Kay who will always be within her heart.

My deepest sympathy to all of you...Ali

Ali Peddgo - October 02, 2020 at 04:50 PM