



Elisa "Alice" Filli

July 6, 1918 - April 14, 2011

Elisa "Alice" Filli, 92, of Claverack, passed away Thursday, April 14, 2011 at Pine Haven Nursing Home.

Born on July 6, 1918 in Torrington, CT., she was the daughter of the late Epifanio and Epefania (Gennario) LoPorto.

Mrs. Filli was a bank manager for the Hudson City Savings Institution until retiring.

She was a member and treasurer of the Claverack Seniors, a member of Columbia Golf and Country Club, a member of Mount Carmel Church, a former member of Hudson Elks 787 Ladies Auxiliary, and a former member of Savings Bank Womens American Institute of Banking. She was an avid golfer and bowler, and enjoyed going on trips to the casinos.

Mrs. Filli enjoyed visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and loved playing cards with her friends.

Alice was the beloved mother of John S. Filli, Jr. (Barbara) of Tempe, AZ, Kathleen LaPlante (Bernard) of Old Chatham, Theodore D. Filli (Jacqueline) of Claverack, and Elisa Demski (Ed) of Claverack, and devoted grandmother of Michele Carlson, Shawn Filli, Angela Molden, Steven Engel, Jamie Futera,

Theodore, Brian, Christopher, Damon, Brendan, and Kyle Filli, Dana Skabowski, Tani Quinion, and Eric and Craig Demski. Also surviving are 21 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, John S. Filli, Sr., three brothers, Joseph LaPorto, Paul LaPorte, and William LoPorto, and two sisters, Mary Tizzone and Grace Lybolt.

Visiting time will be from 9 am - 10:30 am Wednesday at the Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11 am Wednesday at St. Mary's Church in Hudson.

Memorial contributions in Alice's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 85 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY, 12206, or to the American Cancer Society, 260 Osborne Road, Loudonville, NY, 12211.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I would like to share this Eulogy with family, relatives, and friends. It was given at Mother's Funeral Mass which was held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Hudson New York on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER

I, John S. Filli Jr., eldest son of Elisa Alice LoPorto Filli, stand here before you today as representative of a family in grief. We are all united----- not only in our desire to pay tribute to our Mother-----but rather in our need to do so.

Mother, who was born Elisa Alice LoPorto on July 6, 1918, in Torrington, Connecticut, was the very essence of motherhood, of unwavering commitment to husband and family, of faith and of determination. To her many friends and relatives she was always there to extend a helping hand in time of need-----and she did so with such unwavering kindness and compassion, thoughtfulness, and dedication. Mother was, indeed, a Standard-Bearer for making the right faith-based choices in life. She was truly an American woman who transcended her Italian heritage.

Today is our chance to say thank you for the many ways in which she touched our lives. Only now that she is gone do we truly appreciate what we are without her. We want her to know that life in her absence will be very, very difficult.

Although we have all despaired over our recent loss, only the message she conveyed to us through her years of giving has afforded us the strength to move forward. Over time, we have come to appreciate her greatest quality -----the ability to unselfishly reach out to others----- no matter how difficult the need-----which she did so often in life.

I would like to now share with all of you a story that was sent to me by a friend. I think it captures the spirit of Mother's life. I hope it impacts you as it did me.

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today!"

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a navy uniform; a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said "good morning, how are you?" or anything- because, you see, I was jet fighter pilot and he was just a sailor. Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time, the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory – he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional

parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all of these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life presents us with, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or help with a just cause.

Mother was, indeed, a very caring and loving person who packed all of our parachutes many times over t

John Samuel Filli Jr. - April 30, 2011 at 11:25 AM

GD

“ *We love Aunt Alice! Aunt Alice was our Grandma Tizzone's (Everyone else's "Aunt Mary") younger sister and such a sweet, salty, fun, gutsy wonderful woman. I'm so happy we came to know her. We send our love and sympathy to those who will miss her most.*

Giuliana, Cameron and Olivia Donnelly, Tucson, AZ

Giuliana Donnelly - April 24, 2011 at 10:32 PM