



Katherine J. Balestra

February 28, 1941 - April 5, 2020

Katherine J. Balestra, of Valatie, formerly of Hudson, died April 5, 2020 at home, surrounded by

her family and loved ones after a brief illness at the age of 79.

Born on February 28, 1941 in Hudson NY, she was the daughter of the late William and Ethel

(Sanford) Bluto. Katy grew up in Hudson and graduated in 1959 from Hudson High School.

After graduation, Katy married her first husband Michael Drivas and went on to create her family. When Katy went back to work she chose her career in retail and customer service until

her retirement. She loved people and as her family would tell you, knew someone wherever

they went, be it in the local diner or a restaurant in NYC. We would always have to stop and

chat with someone who knew Mom.

Katherine was raised in the Trinity Methodist Church in Hudson and as an adult attended Christ Episcopal Church in Hudson and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kinderhook.

Katy was an avid reader, loved to travel, play bingo, do crossword puzzles, eat chocolate covered cherries, and was devoted to her family. She is survived by her daughter, Michele D.

(Richard) Smith of Valatie, NY; and her sons, Michael Jon (Patricia) Drivas of Houma, LA and

Shawn W. Drivas of Hudson, NY; her nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; several

nieces and nephews and a host of long-time dear friends who will all miss her. The two, four

legged sidekicks, known to Mom as "the boys" adopted her when she came to live with them

will miss her also.

She was predeceased by her first and former husband, Michael N. Drivas; her husband

Gaetano

R. Balestra; her brother, William G. Bluto, and sisters, Dolores M. Denegar and Beverly A. Carey.

Katherine's family would like to extend special thanks to her team from Community Hospice of

Jane, Rose, Shannon, Stan and Dawn who provided much comfort and support to her family.

And Special Thanks also are given to her caregiver, Gina, who gave us a sense of peace and rest

during overnight hours.

Due to the current restrictions in place, services and interment at Cedar Park Cemetery will be

private and intimate for her family. Arrangements are with Bates & Anderson – Redmond &

Keeler Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson N.Y. To leave a message of condolence for the

family please visit batesandanderson.com

In Lieu of flowers for those who wish, memorial donations may be made to The Community

Hospice of Columbia and Greene Counties, 47 Liberty Street, Catskill, NY 12414 or The Columbia Greene Humane Society, 125 Humane Society Road, Hudson, NY, 12534

Tribute Wall

LW

“ *I loved Katy. Always a pleasure to talk to wherever I met her.
She was a great person.*

Lucille Whelan - April 08, 2020 at 12:45 PM

EM

“ *Ellen Miller lit a candle in memory of Katherine J. Balestra*



Ellen Miller - April 08, 2020 at 10:37 AM

MD

Love you Aunt Katie! Wished we could have seen you more often! 🥹💔🙏

Mary Drivas - April 08, 2020 at 01:46 PM

EM

“ *Aunt Katie will be missed. She is a very sweet person and I will remember her
always. We send our love to all her family and friends.
Love Ed and Allene*

Ed and Allene Mcgee - April 08, 2020 at 08:24 AM

PT

“ *Katie will always be very fondly remembered. Sending our
heartfelt condolences to her loved ones, our thoughts and
prayers are with you during this very difficult & challenging
time. May she rest in peace. Joseph & Pamela Torchia*



Pamela J Torchia - April 07, 2020 at 08:16 PM