



Theresa VanAlphen

November 15, 1945 - December 10, 2024

The most beautiful person you could have ever had the privilege of knowing, went to be with her Heavenly Father on December 10th, 2024. Theresa (Salvato) VanAlphen (aka Mother Theresa, aka Ma Dukes and Diddi) passed peacefully with her loving family by her side.

Theresa was born in Brooklyn, NY on November 15th, 1945, to the late Anthony and Mary (Torre) Salvato. Her family moved to Cairo, NY in 1947, where soon after they established the Cairo Gardens Restaurant. In later years, the Salvato family then opened Theresa's Luncheonette in Hudson, NY, where Theresa met her soon-to-be husband, Bill. Over the years, Theresa worked at various factories, including the pocketbook factory in Hudson and the knitting factory in Catskill. In 1971, Theresa and Bill married and went onto raise four beautiful children – Rachael, William, Charlie, and Sarah. When Theresa wasn't busy raising her children, all the teenagers who considered Theresa their mom, caring for her grandchildren, and many other family and friends, she kept herself busy knitting, crocheting, and watching her Korean soap operas. She found a true love in watercolors and painted the most beautiful pieces; in fact, one of her paintings can be found hanging on the walls on the 4th floor at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Theresa was always known to keep her door open for anyone who wanted to visit and share a cup of coffee and conversation.

Theresa was welcomed with open arms at the gates of Heaven by her father, Anthony Salvato, her mother, Mary (Torre) Salvato, her brothers Joseph and

Dominic Salvato, her unborn son, and her grandson, Evan Lawton.

Theresa was always there when you needed her the most – offering support, wisdom and love. She has left behind a legacy of kindness and strength, loyalty and honesty, and a loving family to carry on what mattered to her the most.

Her legacy will be carried on by her husband, William D. VanAlphen, her children, Rachael (Bill Hermance) VanAlphen-Coons, William A. (Jennifer Haberland) VanAlphen, Charles (Kristin) VanAlphen, and Sarah (Gerald) Lawton, her grandchildren, Brianna (Shane) Halleran, Melanie (Jameson Gough) VanAlphen, Mackenzie (Billy White) Tiano, Ashley (Marlon Baker) VanAlphen, Jared Lawton, Nathan VanAlphen, Cameron VanAlphen, Lucas VanAlphen, Jesse Lawton, Madilynn VanAlphen, Abigail Hermance, her great grandchildren, Alijah Baker, Revlyn Halleran, and Ariyah Baker, her sister and best friend, MaryAnn (Charlie) Keifer, her niece Bianca Salvato, loving family members including Diane Guimond, John Duda, Jennifer Salvato, and many other cousins, nieces, and nephews – all of whom have promised Theresa to remain just as close, to love fiercely and unconditionally, and most importantly, to never forget to always forgive.

To no one's surprise, in true Matriarch fashion, in Theresa's last few days, she left us with immeasurable life lessons, and a quote we know she would want us to share with all of you – "Love and forgiveness brings joy to the heart. Know that God accepts us with all our flaws and the best gift you can give yourself is to forgive. Forgiveness is the road to joy." ~Theresa (Salvato) VanAlphen

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff at New York Oncology Hematology Cavell Cancer Treatment Program, Hudson, NY and at Columbia Memorial Hospital, for their compassionate, unwavering care.

A service will be held on Monday, December 16th, 2024, 9am-11am at Bates and Anderson in Hudson, NY followed by a burial at Cedar Park Cemetery.

At the conclusion of services, all are welcome to join the family at "The

VanAlphen House”, where hundreds have been welcomed before, to share coffee and memories.

Previous Events

Visitation Hours

DEC **16**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler
110 Green Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3371
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *John houghtaling sent a virtual gift in memory of Theresa VanAlphen*



John houghtaling - December 16, 2024 at 01:45 PM

LM

“ *Theresa...the world is going to be less bright without you. I will cherish the moments we shared together, especially at your kitchen table. You will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest in peace my dear friend. Linda Langton-Mitchell*



Linda J Mitchell - December 16, 2024 at 02:12 AM



“ Words cannot express how truly sorry I am for your loss. Just this past Thanksgiving with our family, it was mentioned to me that my sister-in-law's dad had made a seafood paella last year. I mentioned this to him and said I heard he would be making this for us. He had mentioned to me what a task it was because they were celebrating the Feast of the Seven Fishes. This brought up one of my many memories of Theresa and your family. I told him the only time I remember anything like that was at your home. I honestly cannot remember if it was Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve (based on tradition it was probably Christmas Eve). I was so young. What I do remember is never seeing so much family and food in one place. There was so much love in the air it was magical to me. I am not sure how old I was but that night has been burned into my memory. While I have not attempted the Feast of the Seven Fishes (I can't tell if my memory of that night is accurate and if you actually had seven fishes) but I can tell you that I am so lucky to have been exposed to so much love in my formative years and that it is a love that I try to emulate and teach with our family. Theresa, thank you.

Laura Krzeminski - December 15, 2024 at 08:32 AM



“ Jamie Colgrove lit a candle in memory of Theresa VanAlphen



Jamie Colgrove - December 13, 2024 at 09:10 PM

BH

“ Aunt Theresa...thank you for being there for me and my family. Your love and words of wisdom made many things possible. Chris says you are the most genuine light he has ever met. And that we all will miss you. We will forever keep you in our hearts ❤️ and thoughts.

Beth-Anne Holland - December 11, 2024 at 03:45 PM

JR

Absolutely beautiful. Theresa was such a loving person. I feel incredibly grateful for the privilege of knowing her and will always cherish the kindness and support she extended to our family over the years. My deepest sympathies for your loss.

Joanne Roy - December 13, 2024 at 07:43 AM