



Mary L. Merlo

October 27, 1927 - September 21, 2023

Mary T. Merlo, a longtime resident of Bangor, died peacefully with loved ones at her side at Phoebe Home in Allentown on Thursday, September 21, 2023. She was the loving spouse of the late Andrew Merlo. Mary was born on October 27, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY, a daughter of the late William and Mary (Gatje) Ruschmeier, and eventually moved to Pennsylvania where she met her husband. Mary was also predeceased by her brothers William and John Ruschmeier, her sister Irene Kuranda, niece Veronica Ruschmeier, and nephews William and Peter Ruschmeier.

Mary was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt. Nothing was more important to her than caring for and being with her family. Even into her 90s, Mary looked forward to events, and traveled by whatever means necessary to attend graduations and weddings, or to visit family for vacation. She was a sewing machine operator in blouse mills for 20 years, first at Chi-Chi Fashions, and then Maria Rose before working as a dental assistant at Bangor dental. She most enjoyed her work as a volunteer at Lehigh Valley Hospital Muhlenberg, where she worked in ASU until 2019. Even during her time at Phoebe, she continued to take care of others.

Mary will be lovingly remembered by her children Charles (Lori) of Gales Ferry, CT, John (Kristin) of Little Rock, AR, Vicki Guzzo of Selinsgrove, Kathleen Merlo (Dan) of Puerto Rico, and Mary Katona (Joe) of Macungie; grandchildren Eric Merlo, Rebecca Smith, Andrea Dougherty, Elizabeth Foulk, Jessica Messler, Zachary Ilisevich, Jeffrey Merlo, Providence Ilisevich, Natalie

Merlo, Simon Ilisevich, and Andrew Merlo; great-grandchildren Johnnie and Gino Merlo, Morgan and Mila Smith, Tessa Jo Dougherty, Cecilia and Michael Foulk, and Addison and Sydney Messler; and nieces Alice Love, Cathy Renuart, Irene Ruschmeier, and Dori Ruschmeier, and nephew Stephen Ruschmeier.

Viewing will be from 6:00-8:00 PM on Monday, September 25 at Fiore Funeral Home in Bangor, and funeral mass be at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, September 26 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Pen Argyl, with a viewing in the church preceding the mass from 9:15-10:15 AM. Burial will be in the New Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Roseto. Online condolences may be offered at www.fiorefuneralhome.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Amber Louise Elchert Foundation, or to the Dementia Society of America.

Fiore Funeral Home

610-588-223

jfiore@epix.net

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP **25**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

St. Elizabeth'S Catholic Church

Tribute Wall



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mary L. Merlo.



September 25, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ My condolences to the Merlo family. I know how much your mother loved her family. She was definitely a role model and always lived life to the fullest. Kathy and John Gray

Kathy Gray - September 25, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ I did not know Mrs. Merlo, but I knew her son, John. He has been an inspiration to me and all who know him. I am confident that he got his sense of humor and spirit of generous love from his totally dedicated Mom. She is now with the Lord she loved and served so well.

Msgr. John J. Bendik - September 25, 2023 at 09:29 AM



“ Jill S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary L. Merlo.

Jill S. - September 24, 2023 at 05:03 PM

JM

“ Dear John, Vicki and Family,
My sincerest sympathy to all of you at this most difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in all your loving memories of your dear, kind, and sweet Mom.

Joanne Merolla

Joanne Merolla - September 23, 2023 at 06:13 PM

RL

“ John, Kristin, Chuck, and the rest of Mrs. Merlo's family, "Nothing was more important to her than caring for and being with her family." These words from her obituary are so evident to any who knew her. Many of us also know how devoted John and his siblings have been to her through the years in various ways. May your love for her guide you through your grief and eventually grant you peace of mind, knowing she'd led a full, active life.

Ruthie Buskirk Lerario - September 23, 2023 at 07:32 AM

SG

John, Kristin, Chuck, and the rest of Mary Merlo's loving family. I am sorry for your loss. May your memories of Mary, as a devoted mother, grandmother, and aunt, sustain you during this sad time and in the future. Mary rests peacefully in heaven and will always be with you in spirit. My prayers are with her and you.

Sharon Guida - September 23, 2023 at 10:38 AM

KA

“ Dear John, Eric, and Becky and all of Mrs Merlo’s family,
Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to all. May you all have
wonderful memories to sustain you during the loss of your Mother &
grandmother.

Sincerely,

Karin Dally Curcio

Karin - September 22, 2023 at 07:04 PM

KA

“ I can't say enough about Mary Merlin. She was a wonderful friend
,person and the best volunteer ever. God was first then her family
and friends. Baked the best goodies ever. Her chocolate cake was
the best . She always made sure the nurses at Muhlenberg had a
special treat for holidays and birthdays. Took time to care for a
friendly bunny in her neighborhood. Her time on earth was well
lived. Loved Mary Merlin,our sympathy to her family. So glad she
was part of my life. Karen Allwein

Karen Allwein - September 22, 2023 at 06:51 PM