



Josephine Drago

November 12, 1934 - June 12, 2014

Obituary of Josephine Drago Josephine (Josie) Drago, 79, of Ocala, FL, slipped away peacefully Thursday morning, June 12, 2014. She was born Josephine Gertrude Helen Muscat, a mischievous, spirited child, to the late Publio Muscat and Helen (Delia) O'Brien in B'kira, Malta on November 12, 1934. Her indomitable spirit helped her through her pain and sorrows, and multiplied her blessings when times were good. From the age of six, she was reared by the sisters at Good Shepherd Convent in Balzan, Malta. During the war, Josie would sneak out during air raids, witnessing first-hand enemy bombing raids on her small island home. At fourteen, she and her late brother Paul Muscat O'Brien boarded the SS Sobieski and set sail for America to reunite with their father in Brooklyn, NY. Twenty-two years later, she was very proud to become a US citizen. As a teenager, Josie loved sneaking off to Coney Island on school days to ride the parachute jump. There she met her future husband, James S. Drago. They married August 19, 1951 at Most Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn, and were blessed with four children. Life in Brooklyn and then Long Island was a struggle, and money was scarce; but she worked tirelessly to make ends meet. Always young at heart, she'd still find ways to keep the laughter and music in her life. She couldn't sing, but loved to dance. The tragic loss of her eldest son, Frank J. Drago in 1975 was the heartbreak of her life. She journeyed to new homes in Missouri, Nebraska, and finally, Ocala where, despite her sadness, she held on to that mischievous and spirited inner child. In all these places, she leaves behind a loving family

and many wonderful, dear friends whose lives she touched, and who helped her in turn in so many ways over the years. It was in Ocala that she finally had the time to read, to pursue her love of gardening and chess, and to indulge her love of pasta puttanesca, chocolate and other sweet treats without the scolding eyes of her daughters. Josie is survived by two daughters, Patricia A. Drago and her husband, Richard W. Weissmann, and Barbara A. King; son, James ('Jaimela') Drago; sister, Gina O'Brien Carabott; brother, Thomas O'Brien; sister-in-law, Maureen O'Brien; five grandchildren, Kelly Loss Jones, Bryan Loss, Kyle King, James Drago and Joseph Drago; three great-grandchildren, Elijah, Drake and Liam; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy; son, Frankie; parents; brother, Paul; and sister, Violet Busuttill. A Memorial Service in celebration of Josie's life will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 11:00 a.m. with Father Rick Hugli officiating at Roberts Funeral Home, Bruce Chapel West, 6241 Southwest State Rd 200, Ocala; (352) 854-2266. Josie will be laid to rest with her late husband in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram, Long Island, NY. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Josephine Drago*

June 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Patti, my deepest sympathies.*

Roger Consolla - June 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Barb and Family, Nothing I could say would better capture the spirit of this lovely, funny and wonderful woman than the beautiful tribute you have written. I feel fortunate to have known this strong, kinda wild and crazy (in the very best sense of the phrase) woman. Rest in peace Joey (how she wrote to me on Facebook...) Kate*

Kate Soled - June 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I will miss the great long conversations we had and all the stories you told me. You lived a great wonderful life with alot of hard times but still you kept going with a great stride. My condolences to your beautiful family. There is nothing like a loss of a mother. I wish you all peace in knowing that your Mom is at peace with the Lord.. I love you Aunt Josie.:God Bless you Auntie Josie and your family.. Love you all, Trish Carabott*

Trish Carabott - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ It was a privilege and an honor for me to be Josephine's friend. Her courage, her laughter and her grace taught me extraordinary lessons about life. About love, friendship and family. About myself. She leaves and indelible handprint on my heart. I shall miss her.

Susan Johnson-Smith - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ So sorry for your loss, sending thoughts and prayers your way.

Della McNamara - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to my wonderful wife Patti, Josie's daughter, and to all of Josie's family and friends who have shared their thoughts and memories of her. Her sudden passing was a shock to all of us, but she will always live in the minds and hearts of all those whose lives she touched, including mine. I have many fond memories of Josie from the 18 years I knew her and will definitely miss her stories and laughter!

Richard Weissmann - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My name is Julie from Missouri I Met Jo When she started working at Stefanina's Restaurant, We immediately became friends. Till death do we part. We went to lunch every Friday, had a glass of wine. We always had something to toast about! Then She moved to Florida; I went to visit her a few times, and she came out to me a few times. We laughed and had a good time. Then we would say goodbye again. We talked on the phone a lot. The last time I said goodbye I didn't think it was forever, Oh Jo, My friend, I will miss you. Till we meet again.

Julie Scarpinatto - June 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Eddie Tennant - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

D&

“ *Deepest sympathy*

dennis foley &family - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *We will miss you Jose, on behalf of my mother Julia Rubino, we welcome you to the Holy Suplechre where you will be laid to rest near my mother, She spoke very highly of you. I will find you to pay my own respects.*

Lana Skitton Cerbelli - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My condolences to all the family . R.I.P. Aunt Josie You were an incredible woman, And it has been an honor to have you for my Aunt. I Love You Auntie!!! xoxoxoxo*

Josie Hunter - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *On behalf of our staff at Roberts Funeral Homes, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the entire family during this difficult time.*

Todd McBride - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *May God comfort you James and Patricia in your time of sorrow - What a beautiful tribute - may she rest in peace <3 My thoughts and prayers are with you all - Barbara*

Barbara Roth - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Our deepest condolences to all the family. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.*

Lana Skitton Cerbelli - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a funny lady with lots of stories to tell. We had some good times together in the past and I'm so sorry she is gone but happy she went peacefully. May she rest in peace.*

Carol Karlin - June 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM