



Clara Kostantaras

SEP 19, 1937 - JUL 25, 2020



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Funeral Home

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Clara Kostantaras

SEP 19, 1937 - JUL 25, 2020

Clara was born in New Lexington, Ohio in 1937 to Pietro and Josephine Gasparro. She grew up on Fulton road in Cleveland with her four brothers Lawrence, Martin, Angelo and John and two sisters - her twin Rosalie and the older Mary. The nine of them lived in a small 2 bedroom house that overflowed with laughter, tears, love and the best meatballs you can imagine.

Life changed for Clara at Lincoln High School where she first laid eyes on who she knew instantly would become the one love of her life. A Greek boy from Clark Avenue. Johnny K. She saw her future the minute she heard him sing. The courtship was long. She'd write his name on her folders and follow him in the halls and 'urge' his buddy Pete to help. She'd buy a dress that just happened to match his suit for a dance he sold her a ticket to. She'd wait for him when he was late for their dates (because he was still at the pool hall). And she'd wait for him when he was stationed in the army in Texas. Her love for him was so intense that she took a two day train ride - there and back - with his mother. A woman who, not only did not speak English, but if she had wouldn't have been too keen on talking to her anyway. But that Christmas while on leave and before leaving for a new station in Germany, John proposed. The engagement, equally long, ended on August 18th, 1962, when they became husband and wife on a sweltering hot day with an air conditioner on the outs and a broken down catering truck. But none of that mattered. Nearly 58 years later and their love was still strong and evidenced by all those around them. They cared for each other and took care of each other.

After a brief stint in Pittsburgh they welcomed their son Dean (Patricia, Carmen, Yianni). (And with him the long awaited full approval from Johns mother!) Sixteen months later and Sandy (Frank, Stella, Ursula) was born. Two little ones in tow and John's career brought them to Chicago where they would welcome Angela (Patrick, Clara). The family of five was now complete. Life and career sent them to new towns, on new adventures. Clara welcomed it all with eagerness and excitement. She made friends easily; her smile and warmth infectious. She spread her kindness and joy for life wherever it took us.



Obituary

Clara Kostantaras

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Clara's love for her family was fierce.

Being the best wife, the best mother, was her career. And she pursued it with the highest degree of dedication, strength, professionalism and love. Unwavering Love. She never swayed from her goals: To make our lives rich. Full. Happy. And she succeeded. She made us all feel protected and taken care of always. She made us laugh, sometimes made us cry and always made us dinner. To the very end Sunday dinners were a constant, anticipated joy.

It was with a special gladness that John's new post took the family back to Cleveland. To our whole, collective family. Surrounded by family and loved ones, we were Home.

Clara quickly became a fixture at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church and it's festivals - first as booth coordinator where she'd get anyone in a sailor's hat or a 'kiss me I'm Greek' tshirt; and then as point woman in the food line. She loved being useful, helpful. And always worked with a smile on her face. Welcoming loved ones and strangers alike.

She was everyone's Aunt Clara. She loved deeply and openly and fully.

After years of encouraging, Clara finally got all 3 of her children married off. And then blessedly, one by one, her cherished 'grand babies' arrived. Clara, Stella, Ursula, Carmen and Yianni. They made her sun shine even brighter. And the feelings are reciprocated. There were no better arms to fall asleep in. No better voice to sing them to sleep. This love has no end.

Clara leaves us with her dreams realized. A beautiful wife. A cherished mother. A beloved YiaYia. Our loss is huge. But our blessings are immeasurable.

Your love and support is so incredibly important to us at this time and while we'd like nothing more than to share a hug in honor of our beautiful wife, mother and grandmother, the health and safety of us all prevents us from doing so. Please know we feel your love.

VISITATION THURSDAY JULY 30, 2020 from 10:30-12:30 at St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 4548 Wallings Rd. North Royalton, OH 44133. FUNERAL SERVICE TO FOLLOW FOR FAMILY ONLY. Interment St. Theodosius Cemetery. Masks and social distancing will be required during visiting hours.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the St. Paul Benevolence Fund. 4548 Wallings Rd. North Royalton, OH. 44133.



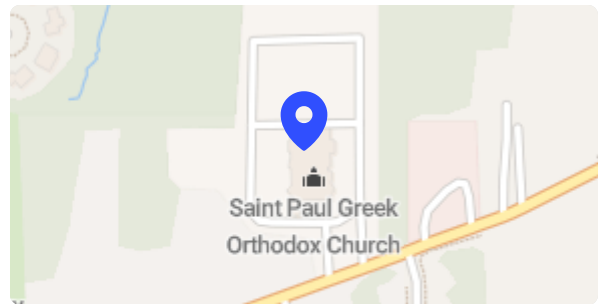
Events

Clara Kostantaras

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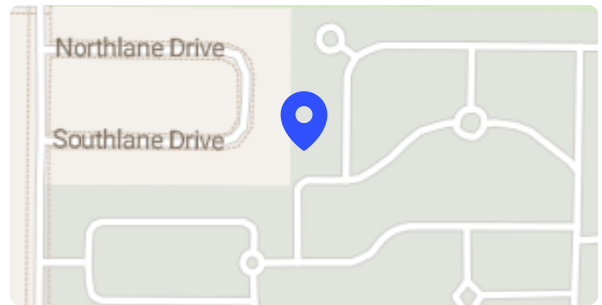
Visitation

- Thursday**, July 30, 2020
- 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM ET
- St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church**
4548 Wallings Road, North Royalton OH 44133



Cemetery Details

- St. Theodosius Cemetery**
8200 Biddulph Road, Cleveland OH 44144





Tribute Wall

Clara Kostantaras

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George And Joie Haddad posted:

Dear Family of Clara, Please accept our deepest sympathies for your loss. Clara and children spent summer afternoons with all of us at Country Lakes. The St. Paul Festival won't be the same without Clara's warm and welcoming smile. Good memories of a good person. May she rest in peace. Fondly, George and Joie Haddad

July 30 at 3:58 PM



Arlene (Missy) Workman lit a candle in honor of Clara.

My heart has just been broken even more this month of July. I want to send my sincere sympathy to Uncle John, cousins Dean, Sandy and Angela and entire family. Aunt Clara has always been so kind and sweet to me, I have nothing but good memories and our laughs and good talks. Her laugh and smile was truly one of a kind and like many others have said, she lit up a room. I will forever miss you Aunt Clara and I know for sure you are up there having homemade pizza from grandma Gasparro and sharing it with Aunt Rosalie, Uncle Marty, Uncle Angelo and Uncle Larry. May you Rest In Peace and I Love you. On behalf of my mother, Mary, she too has fond memories and will forever miss you.



July 29 at 6:37 PM



Arlene (Missy) Workman shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



July 29 at 6:09 PM



Arlene (Missy) Workman shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



July 29 at 6:07 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Kostantaras family.



July 29 at 9:26 AM



Tribute Wall

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Dominick posted:

Uncle John, Dean, Sandy & Angela,What can I say that has not already been shared? Aunt Clara will always be remembered as such a kind hearted and sweet aunt. She loved her grandchildren so much and to say she was proud of them is an understatement.Live with the great memories, they will get you thru the hard times. You all continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. She joins so many great people in heaven and that kitchen table grandma is filling with great food just got a little tighter, but we all know they don't care.God Bless and take care.Dominick, Cindy & family.

July 29 at 5:43 AM



Arlene (Missy) Workman July 29 at 6:42 PM
so very true Dominick...



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Kostantaras family.



July 28 at 4:50 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Kostantaras family.



July 28 at 2:31 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Kostantaras family.



July 28 at 1:05 PM



Mark Radbourne posted:

So sorry to hear the news of aunt Clara's passing uncle John. I will always have fond memories of what a wonderful hostess she was whenever we visited. My heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

July 28 at 12:25 PM



Tribute Wall

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MG

Michael Gasparro posted:

Uncle John, Dean, Angela and Sandy, I offer our thoughts and prayers in this most difficult time. I remember Aunt Clara to be such a genuinely gracious loving aunt always so positive and smiling, May the memories you shared and the loved ones around you provide a measure of comfort to get you through the days ahead. Please accept our deepest condolences. Michael & Dalia Gasparro

July 28 at 12:12 PM

SS

Skidders Restaurant Management & Staff sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the Kostantaras family.

July 28 at 10:19 AM



LM

Love, The Skiadiotis, Angie, Mick & Ted sent a Serenity Wreath to the Kostantaras family.

July 28 at 10:19 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Kostantaras family.

July 28 at 7:53 AM



DP

Dean Pagonakis posted:

With a saddened heart I foundnd out from my sister that this wonderful lady had passed. All my thoughts and prayers go out to the Kostantaras family. She always had a smile for everyone she knew. Love, Dean Pagonakis

July 28 at 3:27 AM



Tribute Wall

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Cindy Varlamos posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mrs.Konstantaras. May you continue to find comfort with the grand memories. Memory Eternal.Peace & Love,Cookie Varlamos & Valerie Kotian

July 27 at 7:45 PM



Larry Gasparro posted:

So sorry to hear of the passing of Aunt Clara. I have such warm childhood memories of her. Aunt Clara, greeted everyone with a big smile."Madone Ami" - not confident it is spelled correctly, but it was a quote that she commonly stated. Five decades later, you'll hear me repeat that phrase and I think of her when I do.Two vacation trips to visit her family in Chicago and Freehold, NJ (the fort in the backyard & Seaside Heights), are fond memories that I will always have. How bout driving from Freehold, NJ to Cleveland with six children, three adults, and the associated luggage, in their station wagon. The riches of life.Sending sincere condolences to Uncle John, Dean, Sandy and Angela.RIP, Aunt Clara.Larry, Linda Gasparro & FamilyDublin, Ohio

July 27 at 6:24 PM



Maria Lemmon posted:

I was saddened to hear the passing of my aunt Clara...my late mother's twin sister...I have fond memories of her growing up and remember her as always being a kind and loving soul...thank you aunt Clara for always loving us so and for loving my mother..your sister...I am sure you both have reunited and are truly in heaven. God Bless you uncle John and family..Love Maria, Rosalies daughter..

July 27 at 4:26 PM



Anonymous sent a Heart's Companion Bouquet to the Kostantaras family.



July 27 at 4:08 PM



Yvonne Kalucis posted:

I am so truly sorry for your loss. Always smiling and laughing. Such fond memories. Deepest condolences and memory eternal.

July 27 at 3:17 PM



Tribute Wall

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EG

Eleni Gugliotta posted:

Kostantaris family, I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your wonderful mother, wife and grandmother. Clara was truly one of a kind. A special loving soul. All it took was one interaction to know what a loving and caring soul she had for the world around her. My earliest memories are from our teenage years growing up at St. Paul. I remember being new to the community and your beautiful Mom had a way of making any child feel loved and welcomed. Most recently she touched my heart again, as she often would through out the years, with her genuine love and concern she expressed to me when my daughter was diagnosed with a blood disorder last fall. Your Mom continued to check in with me at church for my daughters well being up until Covid closed our church in March. Her genuine loving soul full of compassion and concern touched my heart and is something I will never forget. I am very sad to hear of her passing. Please know our love is with all of you during this difficult time even if we can't be there in person. May her memory be eternal. Eleni and John Gugliotta and family.

July 27 at 1:12 PM

BG

Beverly George posted:

My sincere sympathy to you John and your children and grandchildren for the passing of Clara. She always made me feel welcomed whether it was here in Cleveland or Florida. She was a cherished friend to my sister, Teddy before and during her illness. May She Rest In Peace, Memory Eternal. We must "Leave It In The Hands of God " Dwell on the Happy Memories, Love, Beverly. (Aunt Bev)

July 27 at 12:52 PM



Arlene (Missy) Workman shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album. July 29 at 6:09 PM



lovely ladies at Mary's 80th birthday



Arlene (Missy) Workman shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album. July 29 at 6:07 PM



Clara and Mary



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Clara by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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