



Dorothy E Nigro

September 30, 2024

Dorothy Elizabeth (Fitzgerald) Nigro, 88, of Closter, passed away on Monday, September 30, 2024, surrounded by loving family. Devoted to her family and faith, she will be remembered for her roles as wife, Mom, “Mamama” and loving sister, as well as for her love of dancing, goofy rhymes, carrot cake with lots of nuts, and her church community.

Born on July 19, 1936 to Elizabeth (Lappin) and John “Jack” Fitzgerald, Dorothy grew up in New York City. As a child she enjoyed spending time with her family, including her many aunts, uncles and cousins. A special memory was picnics under the Little Red Lighthouse along the Hudson. She attended Cathedral High School and went onto Bellevue School of Nursing where she made lifelong friends. After graduation she worked as a nurse for Visiting Nurse Service; in later years she capped off her career working at the Adult Daycare in Dumont.

Dorothy married Joseph Nigro in 1960, and they were happily married for 63 years. Together, they built a wonderful home and family. Moving to Closter in 1963, the family became members of St. Mary’s Church, eventually joining St. Therese Parish in Cresskill. Joe and Dot were active participants and leaders in the Marriage Encounter program. They enjoyed traveling around the country with Elderhostel and cross-country skiing in Vermont.

She also volunteered as a CCD teacher and with the Girl Scouts, as well as cheering for (and driving to and from) her children's many athletic events. In subsequent years, she cheered her grandchildren on in all their pursuits, be it baseball or football games, dance recitals, graduations, award ceremonies, and enjoyed all of her moments with family. Dot was also an active member of the Woman's Bible Sharing group at St. Therese.

Dorothy was predeceased by her dear husband, Joe. She is survived by five children; Felicia Ballard, Virginia (Paul) Mickolajczyk, Joseph (Megan) Nigro, John (Wendy) Nigro and Beth (Steve Wilson) Nigro. She is also survived by her grandchildren, who love her dearly; Kaitlyn (Alex) and Christopher Connelly; Phoebe, Luke and Jake Ballard; Jack, Tim (Mars) and Sam Nigro, Sara and Rebecca Nigro, and Kimberly (Joe) Gilmore. She is also survived by her dear sisters, Helen (Harry) Tucker and Josephine Kavanagh, and sister-in-law Agnes Nigro. She was predeceased by her parents, her granddaughter Sophie Ballard, her sisters Elizabeth Grisolia and Kathleen Thompson, and beloved brother, Brother Brendan Fitzgerald, as well as sister-in-law, Rose Nigro, and brother-in-law, Nicholas Nigro. She is also survived by many beloved nieces and nephews as well as extended family and countless friends, many of whom have been so very loyal and supportive over the past year as she navigated life missing Joe.

Special thanks as well to Valley Hospice for their superlative care.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. No one loved her family more than Dorothy Nigro, and that love was reciprocated and will continue as her legacy.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Closter Ambulance Corps , 72 Ruckman Road, Closter, New Jersey or to the Valerie Fund, 2101 Millburn Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey, 07040

Cemetery Details

Westwood Cemetery

23 Kinderkamack Rd
Westwood, NJ 07677

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

OCT 4. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

OCT 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Church
120 Monroe Ave
Cresskill, NJ 07626-1405
(201) 567-2528

Interment

OCT 5 (ET)

Westwood Cemetery
23 Kinderkamack Rd
Westwood, NJ 07677

Tribute Wall

JO

“ Dorothy was the oldest in my family and unlike the rest of us she was the most ladylike of the bunch. Dot went to Bellevue nursing school a 3 year school. I remember when she got capped she was so happy. At that time each school had a different cap her was called a cupcake cap. today they don't wear caps but then you could tell which school a nurse went by their cap. Dot was proud of her cap.

After graduation Dot worked for the visiting nurse service and helped card for people in their homes. She didn't drive or have a car but used subways and buses to get around. Because Dot needed a phone for work we got our first phone, party line.

Dot told me she had to look after the younger kids because mom worked. She also had to cook meals that mom prepared so all needed to do heat them. I do not remember this but I was 10 younger so I guess I was too young.

Dot met Joe a Korean war vet and fell in love. He worked for the phone company, MA Bell. They lived in the Bronx and had their first child Felicia. After a while they moved to Closter, NJ. Dot said she was used to sounds of the city and had trouble adjusting to county sounds making hard to sleep. She also didn't get why there no sidewalks so she had to walk in the road when took the babies out in their carriages. She said seldom met anyone on those walks.

Later went kids were older she wanted to return to nursing so she took a refresher course and when wanted to adjust a bed she looked for the crank but there wasn 't any.

Dot and got older

they had some health problems but always supported each other and their Kids 3 girls and 2 boys.

As Joe got sicker he never lost his sense of humor and told Dot he wanted to get a t-shirt made that said I know I am 93 years old because whenever he went to the doctor they said you know you are 93.

Joe and one of the last he said to his kids was TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER. They have been doing a good job of that but Dot wished in wasn't needed but was grateful.

WE spoke on the phone 2 days before she had her stroke she had a bad cold and was coughing a lot' She only lasted a few days later. rest in peace Dot I hope your with Joe

Josephine - October 06, 2024 at 12:06 AM

RS

“ *I have fond memories as a youngster visiting my cousins on 168 th Street with my mom(Aunt Peggy). There was always a lot of laughter at the Fitzgerald house. Dorothy and my sister, Rosemary, were like sisters when they were young. Dorothy was a loving, caring person who always thought of others. The last time I saw her she and Joe were visiting Helen and Harry and they drove up to visit us in the Villages while my mom was staying with us. It was typical of their thoughtfulness and an extremely nice visit. Love to all her family.*

Robert & Claire (cousin Bobby)

Robert Smith - October 03, 2024 at 02:12 PM