



Mrs. Josephine Gurnsey

February 29, 1924 - February 2, 2016

The story of Josephine Gurnsey begins on February 29, 1924 in San Francisco. She was born as one of four children to John and Katherine DeMartini. Josie stood an un-imposing 4'9"; but don't let that fool you. Growing up with 3 siblings in San Francisco and being of Irish-Italian descent, Josie learned early in her life that a balance of strength, determination, unconditional love and selflessness would earn her the love and respect of everyone she touched. Despite her stature, she is appropriately described as the "pillar of the family", an attribute that would be tested over the course of her life.

Josephine married Joe Gurnsey, a municipal railway worker and a WWII veteran of the U.S. Army. They had two children, Patricia and Darlene. Josie worked several part time jobs over the years to make ends meet; however, her most important jobs were that of housewife, mother and, eventually, grandmother. The role of a housewife in the 1950's and 60's was not for the faint or weak hearted. Josie had to possess the organizational skills of a general, the patience of a saint, the charisma of a fortune 500 CEO and the love and affection only a mother understands.

Josie was always the one that made sure that everyone from her friends and siblings all the way down to her grandchildren were taken care of. She would drop everything to make sure everyone made it to their doctor's appointments and had any care and attention they needed. She did this tirelessly, testimony to her strength and endurance; she also did these things under the guise of

thoughtfulness and generosity. Pillar of the family indeed.

She wasn't all business; Josie played the slot machines in Reno and various smaller casinos in California. Then there was bowling; "she loved to bowl", is an understatement. The fact that she bowled well into her 80's is a better illustration of her love for the game.

Josie relied on her inner strength several times in her life. She experienced the dismay no grandmother should when Cory passed away; she was a caregiver to each of her three siblings as they left her behind; in 2004, her loving husband, Joe went on to whatever comes next, probably to prepare everyone over there for the likes of Josie. Now, nearly 12 years to the day after her husband - and nearly 92 years after her birth - she is blessed to be among those she loved and we are blessed for having known her and for having been loved by her.

Josie's generosity extended far beyond her family. She would donate what she could whenever she could to any cause. From Veteran's organizations to Cancer Research, Josie understood the impact small gestures could have on the big picture. Furthermore, she did not like flowers and would rather help friends, family and strangers alike through her modest contributions. In honor of this, we ask that flowers not be sent; instead, make a contribution to a charity of your choice; tell them it's from Josie.

Please join us to celebrate Josephine Gurnsey's life on March 6, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Redwood City at Trish Caunday's residence. Please RSVP at JoGurnseyMemorial@gmail.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 6. 1:00 PM (PT)

Trish Caunday's residence
Redwood City, CA
jogurnseymemorial@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *Love you Aunt Josie.*

David - February 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM

DA

“ *David lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Gurnsey*



David - February 21, 2016 at 09:59 AM

DB

“ *David Butler lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Gurnsey*



David Butler - February 20, 2016 at 07:14 AM

CH

“ *Darlene and Patricia and family,
It broke my heart to hear about Aunt Josie. I had been thinking about her a lot for the past couple of weeks, or so, and I guess Sonny must have been too. Pam and I had been thinking about, and talking about all the family, and she contacted Sonny recently. He called her back the other day and said he had tried to call Aunt Jo's number, and knew something must be wrong. Cindy went online and found the obituary. He called Pam this morning to tell us. Beautiful Aunt Josie was the last one to leave. They are all gone now. Mother died in 2011. We learned, when Pam contacted Sonny, that Alton had died a couple of years ago. My Rob died last year after a long battle with lung cancer. I've thought about you often, Dar. My computer crashed that had all of my emails on it. We were in the process of moving, so didn't fix it and bought another one. Then Rob's mother's health got bad, then Mother's health, then Rob's health, so I'm still in the process of grieving for him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I'm crying at the beautiful pictures, and especially the one of Uncle Joe and Aunt Josie. Love,
Cheryl*

Cheryl Hutchens - February 15, 2016 at 04:36 PM

PK

“ *Darlene and Patricia we were so sorry to hear of Aunt Jo's passing. Sonny called and said he had been trying to call and couldn't get anyone. Cheryl said she had been thinking of everyone. Our hearts ache for you. your cousin, Pam Gurnsey Kyzer daughter of Johnnie and Dot Gurnsey*

Pam Gurnsey Kyzer - February 15, 2016 at 12:02 PM

BC

“ Grandma,

Looking back at all the memories we shared together is something out of a fairy tale, as I so eagerly couldn't wait til the morning to make yet another trip up to the city to spend my summers, five days a week at your house. I will never forget those days. You are a huge part of my life as we spent so much time together. I loved those summers and am so thankful that I had so many of them with you, from staying home and watching Nickelodeon, to going out and spending the entire day at the San Francisco zoo, making our way to the bowling alley where I got to meet your ladies, to walking up and down the Serramonte mall, you were the most fearless and adventurous person I have ever known to this day. Your unconditional love for me beamed through your eyes as you would call my name or tickle me just to get a reaction. Writing words truly isn't enough for me to express how much I love you and how much of an impact you are in my life. Grandma I hope you know the bond we have is a bond I have with no other person.

I hope you know that near the end, I never lost the love that was cultivated back during those summer days. In my eyes you raised me as much as mom and dad. You're a genuine gem to the city of San Francisco I am so proud to have been your grandson, and I will keep you with me forever.

-Brandon



Brandon Caunday - February 10, 2016 at 04:27 PM

PA

“ Please join us to celebrate Josephine Gurnsey's life on March 6, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Redwood City at Trish Caunday's residence. Please RSVP at JoGurnseyMemorial@gmail.com.

patriciacaunday - February 10, 2016 at 07:32 AM

DB

“ We remember a sweet lady surrounded by her loving family. We weep with you for your loss and rejoice with you for all the years you were privileged to spend with your dear mother. May the Lord give you comfort in the depths of your heart..Love you Trish, David and Melani Bray

david and melani bray - February 04, 2016 at 09:51 PM

PA

“ Pat lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Gurnsey



pat - February 04, 2016 at 08:55 PM

TR

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



trish - February 04, 2016 at 06:55 PM

TR

Mom and Dad together again.

trish - February 04, 2016 at 06:57 PM

TR

Sisters are together again.

trish - February 04, 2016 at 07:01 PM

CA

“ *Cathy lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine Gurnsey*



Cathy - February 04, 2016 at 03:35 PM

CA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Cathy - February 04, 2016 at 09:53 AM

CA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Cathy - February 04, 2016 at 09:51 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Cathy - February 04, 2016 at 09:49 AM

CO

TRISH,DAR..IM SO SORRY FOR LOST OF MOM,MY HEART ACHES FOR YOU BOTH... YOUR IN MY THOUGHT AND PRAYERS ALWAYS..LOVE THESE PICTURES HAVENT SEEN HER IN AWHILE BUT TALKED TO HER OFTEN....I LOVE YOU BOTH VERY MUCH.AND WILL MISS MY AUNTIE JO..LOVE YOUR CUZ COLLEEN.OXOX

COLLEEN - February 04, 2016 at 01:23 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



trish caunday - February 04, 2016 at 08:52 AM

CA

Beautiful; mother and daughter.

Cathy - February 04, 2016 at 09:48 AM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Cathy Collins - February 03, 2016 at 09:47 PM

CC

“ *God has you in his arms, I have you in my heart....forever.*

Cathy Collins - February 03, 2016 at 09:39 PM

KE

“ *You'll be missed, Great Aunt Josie. Rest in peace.*

Kelly - February 03, 2016 at 09:29 PM

TC

“ *Love you so much Mom...will miss you forever!!!!*

Trish Caunday - February 03, 2016 at 08:13 PM