



Josephine Dolores Kozell

January 26, 1934 - November 1, 2015

“Her Family was Her Life”

Josephine Dolores Kozell was born January 26, 1934 in Paterson, New Jersey to her parents Frank & Rose Cambria. To Joe and Ricky she was always Mom, to her 10 grandchildren and great grandchildren she was affectionately known as Gam or Gammy Jo. To all her friends she was known simply as Jo and to the small children of friends she was called Gam. That is how she wanted it.

Mom was the most beautiful person inside and out and as the single parent for two boys she was as tough as nails when she had to be, but still as tender as the Gardenia flower she loved all of her life. She always made sure that the holidays, birthdays and special occasions for us were just right. She sacrificed for herself in order to give to Joe and me when we were growing up.

She shared the little she had with those that were less fortunate. Over the years she gave a place to stay to more than a few who had nowhere else to go. Some stayed only a short time and others until they got their feet back on the ground, she never said no.

Recently someone told me of a woman who she identified as a walking Angel because of all she had been through in her life. As we learned just how many lives our Mom has touched it became very clear to Joe & me that our Mom was also a walking Angel. Some of those lives she touched called her Mom, Gam, Gammy Jo, Auntie Jo, Mama Jo and some called her Josie and of course the little ones called her Gam. All of these references to her were so special to her more than anyone probably knew.

Over the years Mom fought and beat cancer on two occasions. This last year of our Moms life was the hardest cancer battle she had to fight. She really thought she beat it forever. She underwent her radiation treatments and we all thought she was out of the woods. Those treatments ended up weakening Mom to the point where she no longer could breathe well. She entered the hospital on October 7, 2015 for the fight of her life. She fought for 26 days to stay with her boys. On November 1, 2015 at 9:50 PM our Mom lost her fight. She passed away very peacefully and comfortably with her sons and best friends

of 50 years by her side.

She is survived by her 2 sons Ricky and Joey, daughter-in-law Deborah, her 6 grandchildren Lisa, Ricky, Keri, Brian, Bobby and Daniel as well as her 4 Great Grandchildren Luca, Gino, Rosie and Liam.

In lieu of flowers or gifts the family asks that donations be made in the name of Josephine D. Kozell to either;

St Jude's Children Hospital in her name:

https://shop.stjude.org/GiftCatalog/donation.do?cID=14262&pID=24671&sc_icid=wtg-mm-btn-donate-now

- OR -

Levine Senior Center in her name

The Levine Senior Center
1050 DeVore Lane
Matthews, NC 28105

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

NOV 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Levine Senior Center

1050 Devore Lane

Matthews, NC 28105

<http://www.levineseniorcenter.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Josephine Dolores Kozell*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Josephine Dolores Kozell*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ *When she was here, we would tease and whine about her. Gam would want us to fawn over her. She could be mopey if she didn't get enough attention. She would nag you; "When are you coming to see me again", "When are you having my great grand baby", "When is the next great grand baby". "Will you make me a Bailey's and cream" (after I just made her one that was not creamy enough).*

But she always loved everyone in the room. She would always be ready to make you a chicken cutlet dinner whenever you asked (no matter how much work it was or if she was tired). She would never let me help clean up (usually because my time could be better spent making her a Baileys with too much or not enough cream).

Lately, I have realized how much I miss her. I find myself mimicking her voice and tone to tease family members in the same fashion she would. It's just not close enough. I miss her attentive, nagging questions that made me feel so important. I miss her little attitude she made Gam who she was. Of course, I miss the chicken cutlets (who doesn't). But most of all, I miss just being able to talk to her. I never realized just how much that meant to me.

We love and miss you so much Gammy Jo!



Brian, Ashley, and Liam Kozell - July 14, 2016 at 11:10 AM

ML

“ How do we even start to express what Auntie Jo meant to us? She was such a huge part of our family...we feel as though there is a hole in our family but especially in our hearts! How strange life is already not to have her here. We love you so much but know you are in a much better place, free from all pain! May God hold you close in his hands! We will forever remember how sweet and generous you were to us but especially our kids! How strange it will be to not ask: " Is auntie Jo coming?" anytime we get together with family now. Peace to you & your family through this difficult time. You will forever be missed! We Love you dearly!



Maddi & Frank Lott - November 12, 2015 at 03:10 PM

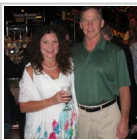
KF

“ Jodie has been a dear friend to me since the day I started working alongside her at Community Blood Services almost 17 years ago. I have so many memories of the many lunches and dinners our close-knit group of NJ girls shared together, laughing up a storm, supporting one another through illnesses and other family concerns, sharing stories about our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was always there to support me and so many others. I looked forward to our quick “checking in” phone calls – how are you doing, how are the grandkids, what are you up to? She has a very special place in my heart and always will; I’m sure when we girls get together we will set a place for her at the table and remember how often we laughed ‘til we almost cried! I feel her presence all around me...xoxo, Jo!



Karen Ferriday

Karen Ferriday - November 12, 2015 at 09:51 AM



“ Many fond memories of aunt Jo you always made us laugh and will now make us smile when we think of you Brian lacouture

Brian LaCouture - November 11, 2015 at 05:26 PM

PA

“ I met Jo/Jody about 20 years ago at the blood center where we both worked. Jo was a good friend and was always there for me when I needed to talk to someone during some tough times in my life. I will always have a special place in my heart for Jo and the sadness I now feel, will turn into smiles because of the good memories I have of her.

Patti

Patti - November 11, 2015 at 08:19 AM

FG

“ We both have fond memories of Josie. Josie, Arlene, Al and their friend Pat use to come to Winston-Salem to visit us at our home. We have known Josie more years than we can remember and we will miss her. We met Josie many years ago when we lived in Atlanta, after Arlene and Al moved there with their sons Eugene and Frank.

Frank and Gary

Frank and Gary - November 09, 2015 at 04:54 PM

SS

“ Jo I was so sad to hear the news of your passing, you were my 2nd mother you will always be in my heart and don't forget you taught me how to eat shrimp you will be forever in my heart God dpeed



Stephen Schunk - November 07, 2015 at 10:17 AM

HR

“ Ms Jo is forever in our hearts. Truly amazing & kind. She gave great advice even when you didn't want to hear it & loved her family so much. I will miss her wonderful personality & beautiful smile.



Hope Ruggiero - November 06, 2015 at 07:41 PM

JN

“ Pam and I were so lucky to have had you come into our lives. We already miss the hell out of you! Next summer at the pool will not be the same. Your chair will always be next to us when we are there and saved just for you. Will never forget the greatest sausage and peppers or chicken cutlets ever! We love and miss you very much Mamma Jo.

Love,
Jimmy

Jim neal - November 06, 2015 at 05:30 PM

AL

“ We could never put into words how wonderful it was to have the friendship we shared. We loved her very much, and will miss her forever. RIP Jo, and we will be together again one day.



Arlene Lott - November 06, 2015 at 07:47 AM

MR

I met Jo years ago at my friend's house Arlene and Al Lott. She was such a lovely person as well as a tough woman! Being Italian myself I related to her Northern personality and wit. A funny person to be around and laugh with. Rest in peace Jo! You fought a tough battle but now you are in God's hands, suffering no more.

michele rivera - November 07, 2015 at 01:59 PM

MI

Such sad news, she was always so loving and so much fun. The last time we spent together was here in Florida, on the boardwalk in Jensen Beach.....we had lots of fun together. She will be missed, not only by me but by so many. She was always upbeat and laughing, no matter what she was going through. I would say Rest In Peace, but I know you are in Heaven raising Hell lol. Love you and miss you already.

Martha lacona - November 11, 2015 at 05:15 PM

Eric Strube

“ Eric Strube sent a virtual gift in memory of Josephine Dolores Kozell



Eric Strube - November 06, 2015 at 06:56 AM



“ I just really can't believe that she is gone. I will always remember our talks. I will always remember her kindness, and her humor. This lady could make me laugh like no other. I Love You and will never forget you.

Eric Strube - November 06, 2015 at 06:56 AM