



Mrs Sherry "Shirley" Florio Russo

November 28, 1926 - January 25, 2015

Sherry (Shirley) Florio Russo, 88, died January 25, 2015 at Wilson Hospice House, Albany, GA. The Remains have been cremated. Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors, Albany, GA managed the arrangements. A private service will be held in Panama City, FL at a later date.

Mrs. Russo was born November 28, 1926 in East Haven, CT. Educated in Hamden, CT and a 1944 graduate of Hamden High School, she married Alfred D. (Fred) Russo in 1947. They lived in the Hamden and Branford, CT areas for many years.

Her early adult years were comprised of raising her family and volunteering her time to a variety of non-profit agencies. Of note was her dedication to fund-raising for St. Anthony's Orphanage in New Haven, CT and Blessed Sacrament Church in Hamden, CT. After moving with her husband and family to Georgia in 1964, Mrs. Russo became an active resident of Manchester/ Meriwether County, GA. She was well known for her expertise in needle work and earned numerous awards in regional competitions. She was the owner of Sherry's School of Dance, was a member of the Manchester Woman's Club and with her husband, worked to raise thousands of dollars for Easter Seals. In 1970, she was honored by being named the Manchester/ Meriwether County Homemaker of the Year. In 1974, Mrs. Russo achieved a lifelong dream by graduating with a degree in nursing from Columbus State College (now Columbus State University). She practiced as a Registered Nurse at the Georgia Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital.

In 1975, Mrs. Russo relocated with her husband and family to Bay Point/Panama City, FL. During her thirty years in the area, Mrs. Russo held several professional positions. Of note are her years as the Director of Infection Control and Employee Health Services at Gulf Coast Community Hospital, an HCA affiliate. After retirement, Mrs. Russo volunteered at Gulf Coast. In 2004, in recognition of her countless hours of dedicated volunteer service in the Emergency Department, she was nominated for HCA's prestigious Frist Humanitarian Award. Prior to moving to Albany, Mrs. Russo lived in Big Canoe, GA for several years. She was a published author of poetry, a world traveler, a devotee of Jazz, ballet and all things oriental, an avid indoor gardener and an expert in knitting and other needlework.

Mrs. Russo was preceded in death by her parents, Carl J. and Jean Arpaia Florio; her husband of 39 years, Alfred D. Russo Sr., and her daughter, Carla Russo Griffith. She is survived by her daughter, Valerie Russo Buchanan (George) of Albany, GA; her son, A. David Russo Jr. (Helen) of Panama City, FL; her sister, Audrey Florio Grava of Chicago, IL; her sister Barbra Florio Graham of Gatineau, Quebec, Canada; her granddaughters, Joy Russo Chonko (Stephen) and Noel Russo of Panama City, FL and Kelly Russo (formerly Kelly Griffith) of Spokane, WA; her grandsons, George Buchanan III (Mary) of Birmingham (Hoover), AL and Gregory Buchanan (Lori) of Scottsdale, AZ; her great-grandchildren, Katherine, Whit and Alex Buchanan of Birmingham, AL and Samuel and Natalie Buchanan of Scottsdale, AZ; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Thronateeska Heritage Foundation, 100 West Roosevelt Avenue, Albany, GA 31701 or to The Anchorage Children's Home, 2121 Lisenby Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs Sherry "Shirley" Florio Russo*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mrs Sherry "Shirley" Florio Russo*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Miss Sherry was a lovely and talented lady. I took dance in her basement most of my young life. She was always so uplifting. I took dance with Carla and Joan Long and we three aspired to be ballerinas due to Miss Sherry's encouragement. I read her obituary and while I knew she did a lot for charity - I did not realize how awesome she was! I am sure she is nursing (and dancing) in heaven and back with her beloved spouse - Fred , her sweet parents and Carla. God rest her soul and my sincere condolences. Theresa Crane Gulfport, Florida*

Theresa Crane - February 16, 2015 at 10:19 AM



“ *Valerie, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Dimi Pace - January 26, 2015 at 10:41 PM



“ *Hey Valerie's and George, My thoughts and prayers are with you. Valerie, I remember several years ago meeting your mom in my home at a Christmas swap that you and she attended.*

Sarah Carte' - January 26, 2015 at 06:40 PM



“ Thank you to all the family and friends who have expressed their condolences.

When my family visited Panama City, for a wedding, Mama Sherry told me I asked to use her special "blue bathroom," even though I hadn't visited her house for 4 years!

Mama Sherry was a role model and inspiration to me. She was extremely talented as both a nurse and when working with her hands. Anything she set out to make, whether sewing or writing poetry, was always exceptional.

Mama Sherry's life long dedication to serving and taking care of others will be long remembered.

Kelly Russo - January 26, 2015 at 03:04 PM

KG

I have a beautiful chine glove box and a warm pair of sox made for me by my godmother, Aunt Sherry. Karen Grava

Karen Grava - January 27, 2015 at 07:03 PM



“ Kelly Russo sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs Sherry "Shirley" Florio Russo



Kelly Russo - January 26, 2015 at 02:53 PM

DS

“ Valerie, So sorry about your mother. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Debbie Sutton

Debbie Sutton - January 26, 2015 at 09:50 AM

JG

I remember visiting Vandalia back when Aunt Sherry was doing ceramics. I was about 9 I think. I was chasing a balloon in the living room and fell flat on the coffee table, which displayed her finest works. They were all smashed, I felt terrible. Aunt Sherry hugged me and told me she loved me and that it didn't matter. My condolences and love to all of you out there, she lived a long life but I know it seems short now. Jeff Grava in California.

Jeffrey Grava - January 26, 2015 at 01:08 PM

BH

David, I remember you and your family from Manchester in the early 70's. Each time I ride by the house you lived in, I think about the kindness of your family and the good times we had. I wish you the best at this time and hope all else is good in your life.

*Bill Hardaway (George & Carolyn Wolfe's grandson)
Manchester, GA*

Bill Hardaway - January 30, 2015 at 09:57 AM

BH

A sweet and caring lady. God bless, sherry

bill hall - February 02, 2015 at 10:38 AM