



Anna Rose Sullivan

MAR 7, 1936 - JAN 28, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Anna Rose Sullivan, a native of Mt Morris, NY, and resident of Tampa Bay Florida since 2006, passed peacefully into the arms of our Lord and Savior on Friday, January 28, 2022. She was 85. Surrounded by her family as she left this world, she is now reunited in Heaven with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Sullivan of 51 years, <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/clearwater-fl/john-sullivan-5425875>, and survived by her sons Patrick (Kelly), John Jr (Laura), Anthony (Dana) and Matthew (Nicole); grandchildren Christopher, Daniel, Kelsey, Nathan, Morgan, Jordan and Zachary; Siblings Anthony (Dorothea) DioGuardi, John (Peggy) DioGuardi, Sarah (Jim) Quirk, Julie Brennan and Sharon (Jim) Farrell. She was predeceased by brothers; Joseph, Sam, Patrick, Charles, Carmine and Richard DioGuardi, and sisters; Ida Meek, JoAnn Prew and Donna Perham. Anna leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Born March 7, 1936, Anna was the 5th eldest of 15 children. Raised in a large family during the depression, money was tight, and Anna learned from a young age the value and reward of hard work. She also learned the power of love; for while money was tight, love was abundant in their home! A voracious reader as a child (a habit she held her entire life), Anna graduated from Mt Morris Central High School in 1954. She applied to, and was accepted to Geneseo Normal College (now SUNY Geneseo), where she embarked upon her dream to be a speech therapist. God had other plans for her, however. After completing 3 semesters, Anna took a leave of absence to move to Chicago, to help care for her sister and her new niece.

Just a few years after that, Anna met (at her sister JoAnn's wedding) a handsome young man from Rochester, NY. That lucky fellow, John Sullivan, was the brother of JoAnn's new husband. A few short years later in 1961, Anna and John were married. John and Anna settled in Rochester, and raised 4 boys. These 4 boys were the center of Anna's universe. She was, with the possible exception of her own mother, the Greatest Mom Of All Time. Anna's love was hardly limited to her boys. On 3 separate occasions, Anna and John opened their home to foster children. Most



Obituary

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notably, Bobby, Emanuel (Scooter) and Benji. These three brothers lived with the Sullivans for 3 years (9 people in an 1100 sq. ft. ranch!), until their biological mother was able to take them back. In all, there were 6 foster children, and Anna loved them as if they were her own children.

While Anna was a 'stay at home' Mom, that humble but honorable title does not do her justice. Indeed, she kept an immaculate home, was an artisan in the kitchen, and was the general keeper of everyone's schedules. However, she also held a nighttime job with husband John for over 20 years. Amongst other part-time gigs, she ran the kitchen at our churches elementary school for several years. This included everything from planning, buying groceries, cooking and serving all the meals.

Anna had an aura that was genuine and unmistakable. Difficult to describe, but everyone who knew Anna, knows exactly what we are talking about. Anna was an instant friend to everyone she met. Total strangers were routinely greeted with hugs and kisses, and virtually everyone was 'honey.' Anna had a genuine love of people, and had the innate and enviable quality of finding the good in every human being. Everyone she touched was a better person for it. She will be greatly missed, but we know she is with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There will be a private celebration at a later date.
Be sure to check out the photo gallery for memories.



Tribute Wall

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AL

Alice Lucas posted:

I met Anna when she came down from NY to visit sons John and Matt. John was dating our daughter Laura. Anna was so bright and cheerful, we loved her from the start. After our kids married we got to share the joy of 2 grand babies with her. Having her living down here was even better. A warm, sweet and loving woman. She is missed.

February 20 at 1:24 PM

JS

Johnny Sullivan posted:

Messages from other online sources. Your beautiful mama. My beautiful Aunt Anna. She had such an impact on my life growing up. I am heartbroken. What a wonderful tribute to her and her legacy to her family. She is loved by many and has left a huge hole in our hearts. I am truly sorry for your family's loss. Love you. That was such a wonderful obituary, so honoring of your Mom and my sissie. We always said that she was the most loving, caring, generous and kind person...a very, very, very special lady. It didn't matter who she was with, they always felt cared about. You four sons were always her whole life. She rarely talked about herself, but was always filled with pride, admiration and love when she spoke of you guys. I always felt that we had a special sister bond. I will miss our phone calls, and I will miss her terribly. I loved her so much. Much love and prayers sent to you during this sad time! We're sad, but your mom is probably smiling down at us right now! Love you. hey guys. just heard the sad news. sending all my positivity your way as you go through this loss. I always felt so loved by my dear aunt and she was a special person to me. the kindest soul I ever met and I know she was proud because of how you 4 were such great sins to her. love you. I'm so sorry for your loss. I loved Aunt Annie so. What a special woman. I'll be praying for strength to carry you through all the heartache. Keep the faith and all those wonderful memories in your heart and mind. So sorry to hear about your Mom. She was a special lady and I cherish all the memories with your family. I hope they are bringing you some small comfort. Hugs and love to all. I'll be praying for you.

February 12 at 8:47 AM

JS

Johnny Sullivan posted:

Messages from other online sources. What a BEAUTIFUL obituary. I never knew she met Uncle Jack AT Aunt Joann's wedding! Fun to learn new things. Love to you all during this difficult time. Aunt Annie was truly awesome! Truly a beautiful obituary for a beautiful Aunt! I loved all the pictures too! Aunt Anna used to compliment us that we were a class act, when in reality, SHE was the class act!! She loved to call us "doll" when she greeted us and I was always little JoAnna to her. Rest easy Aunt Annie... you are so loved and missed!!!! How beautiful is this she was truly loved. Describes her perfectly! A truly remarkable human!

February 12 at 8:04 AM



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JS

Johnny Sullivan posted:

Messages from other online sources. Prayers and Love for you all. Sending love and prayers to all of you. Tony and I are very sorry to hear this. Peace to all of you. So glad we were able to visit her a couple weeks ago, she will be dearly missed. Hugs and prayers for all the family. I'm so very sorry for your love my dear cousins. Aunt Anna was an amazing woman, mother, aunt and sister. She will be dearly missed. Sending you all love and light. Johnny I am so sad for you, your brothers, their families and our remaining aunts and uncles. Having just experienced this with both parents I understand that we have a blessed hope and know we will see them again. I know that the happiest day of their lives is when they are finally in the presence of the Savior and those who have gone before. It is however the saddest for those of us left behind. Your mama was a good woman who dearly loved and was loved by others. My deepest condolences. Johnny, Patrick, Anthony, Matthew and all the family's sorry to hear about mom she was wonderful inside and out. 🙏🙏 for everyone. Oh my dear cousins, I am sorry for your loss. She was an amazing woman and I will forever cherish my memories of her. Love to you all. So very sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother. She will be dearly missed. Love and prayers for your family. Pat, Anthony, John and Matt I'm so sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful person. God bless.

February 12 at 8:03 AM

SA

Sandi posted:

I cannot even express the heartache and sadness of your loss Annie. You accepted me the way I was, and I love you so much for that. I will miss our time together. You were such a good friend and I will always remember you. God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be so he put His arms around you and whispered "Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you as you slowly slipped away and though we loved you dearly we couldn't make you stay. Your golden heart stopped beating. Your tired hands put to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. I love you Annie.

February 10 at 4:11 AM



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LS

Laura Sullivan posted:

Mama Sully was such a sweet, special soul. It has been our honor and privilege to have her living with us these past two years. She gave us numerous gifts of love in many different ways: her listening ear, her encouraging words, her unwavering belief in the best of each of us...Her constant motherly love was steadfast...it was almost a hedge of protection against the turbulence of our fallen world. I will miss her genuine interest in anything John, I, or our boys would talk to her about. I will miss her fierce loyalty for her family. I'll miss our sharing books with each other, and discussing them. I'll miss watching our "chick flicks" together when our guys are out of the house. We already deeply miss her as we sit around the dinner table each night, her seat now empty. We miss playing cards with her-how she loved our countless games of Rummy! We miss her stories about growing up, her stories about marrying Jack, her stories about raising her four sons-the absolute jewels of her heart. John and I grieve that our sons will no longer be greeted by their grandma's welcoming smile when they come home from school each day. It hurts to know she won't be in the audience as they get their high school diplomas someday, but she was SO proud and supportive of our boys, and that love is something they'll always keep. The pain and loss we feel now is just a testament to a truly lovely lady who has impacted our everyday lives in so many ways. We are so blessed to know that, thanks to Jesus, our separation from her is only temporary. Just as she is once again with her mama, her siblings who passed before her, and her Jack, we will someday be reunited with her, and never again parted. Mama, I'm forever grateful to have you as my mother-in-law. Our relationship was not like "in-laws." We were friends and true family to each other. Until we meet again, I know you are safe in the arms of our Savior. I love you.

February 6 at 9:34 AM

JS

Johnny Sullivan Jr posted:

My sweet Momma was the kindest, most loving and generous person. The obituary tells it well. She did indeed leave a lasting impression on those that met her, and I could tell countless stories of how she bettered those around her. Her countless smiles, hugs and genuine care of those around her, including complete strangers, has left a lasting impression and I believe made this world a better place. I could not have asked for a better Momma growing up. And when I became a parent, I realized even more all that she did for us children. She was, without a doubt, the greatest Mom in the world. I had the great honor and privilege of having her live with us for the last couple years or so, and it added a joy to our lives that is hard to explain. Her impact on myself, wife and children will be forever felt. We have suffered a great loss with her passing and I will miss her terribly. However, we know that she is now with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for all eternity. My sweet Momma how I love you, and I look forward to seeing you again in the Kingdom of Heaven. Johnny Sullivan Jr.

February 6 at 9:34 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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