



Sylvia Louise Rafferty Deliso

June 24, 1929 - January 14, 2025

With great sadness, our family lost our mother, Sylvia Louise Rafferty Deliso, on January 14, 2025, after a long, wonderful life of 95 years. Sylvia was lovingly cared for by her son, Thomas, in her later years, at her home in Agawam. Sylvia resided in Agawam since 1955, after growing up in Holyoke, Ma, (1924) attending UMASS and marrying Benjamin Deliso. Sylvia was active in the community, involved in the past with: Agawam Library Board of Trustees, Agawam Cultural Council, Springfield Symphony Women's League and the Weavers Guild of Springfield. Sylvia was an interesting, well-read human being with many interests in life; a student of the Italian language for many years, an accomplished master weaver, an avid reader. Louise Penny was her favorite author in her later years. She also loved knitting. Sylvia had a zest for life, was a conversationalist and always interested in learning new things. She believed in "let's try it and see what happens. Life was doing things and Sylvia was the organizer. Sylvia traveled with Ben and family for many years, exploring the world on their trips to Europe and the Caribbean, on trips she planned in great detail from the 1950's onward. Her last trips were to Iceland, Portugal and the Azores. Creating a home and raising four children, Sylvia's later in life career was as a librarian, working with Shirley Richard at the Agawam Public Library, establishing the library at Heritage Academy, and finishing her career at Agawam Middle School. Sylvia was predeceased by her husband Benjamin Deliso, her son Andrew, sister Barbara Labouteley (Roger) and brother James Rafferty (Ruth). Sylvia is

survived by Elizabeth Deliso (James), Thomas, and Katherine Richter (Scott). Grandchildren Samuel, Olivia and Lily, nieces Suzanne Burge (Christopher), Andrea Schuette (Rex), Logan Rafferty, and nephew Michael Rafferty (Lee). Sylvia was the daughter of John Rafferty and Bertha Beman Rafferty, a role she cherished, involved in all chapters of their lives. She will miss her “girl gang” - Ann T Hall, Patricia Bertone-Gross, Donna Scherpa and Beverly Secondo, (the traveling people), Mark Ruddock, who made her smile and nephew William (Billy) Caruana, who made her laugh. A private life celebration will be held at a later date. New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Sylvia’s memorial page at www.nefcc.net for a full tribute and expressions of sympathy.

Tribute Wall

RF

“ *It was always nice to see Sylvia , and I will miss her. She was a great member of the Italian-American community. Tom, you did a great job helping her out in her later years, and she was lucky to have you. Please accept my condolences.*

Bob Foresi

robert foresi - February 12, 2025 at 09:35 AM

DF

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I am also amazed that she passed four days after Bob Kadis who had so much respect for her. He treasured her friendship and her knowledge!! We had some wonderful times with her and Ben and will treasure those memories. Sincerely, Donna Fitzgerald*

Donna Fitzgerald - January 17, 2025 at 08:45 AM

JB

“ *Met Sylvia through Benny, her husband, a few times They had many years together. Rest in Peace*

judith bouchard - January 17, 2025 at 07:33 AM