



Lorraine Justina Kurtela

October 3, 1924 - December 2, 2020

Lorraine Justina Kurtela, loving mother to Michele Ann Burton and Mitchell Martin Kurtela, adoring grandmother to Darci Lorraine Burton, devoted son in law Michael Barr, died at the age of 96 after a bout with lung cancer, along with complications of old age in Chico, CA, December 2, 2020. She was born, Oct. 3, 1924, and raised in San Francisco, CA by parents George and Marguerite Degliantoni. She is preceded in death by husband Mitchell Peter Kurtela and brother Eugene Degliantoni. Her ashes will remain with her daughter, son, and granddaughter. As a youngster, Lorraine considered herself shy, but once on to business college where she landed her first job, her world opened, as did she. A working woman in the 40's was a tribute to her forward thinking. As the 50's approached she met her husband Mitch, married and had two children. This shaped her life for the next 70 years. Her devotion to her family was unwavering, being involved with her children's and granddaughter's activities, including elementary school PTA president, school carnival leader, talent show organizer, blue bird troop leader, Little League helper, and on and on. Lorraine lived her life as an advocate and confidant for her children and others, always showing the good side of life. She and Mitch rarely missed any of their children's sporting events, often showing up with olive and egg sandwiches for all the team members after the game. Lorraine's gregarious personality lent itself to family holiday gatherings in their home with a poker game or two after a delicious homemade ravioli and turkey dinner. Of course, she made sure the family recipe was passed down. An unyielding devotion to her family was always Lorraine's main purpose throughout her life. In the 70's and 80's Lorraine and Mitch turned the empty nest syndrome into an adventure by coaching a women's softball team, joining a bowling league, and spending time with other couples. Again, through these social activities, she touched the lives of others and gathered friends along the way. It was also during these years Lorraine taught her granddaughter Darci how to read the racing forms and bet on the ponies at the racetrack. Darci's life-long love of horses continues today, working in the horse industry. In the mid 90's her husband Mitch of 45 years passed. What a tough time, but she would tell you line dance picked her up and gave her purpose. The next 20 years brought another chapter of friendships through the line dance community. She left a mark with a worldwide famous line dance named, Hello Dolly to the song by Bobby Darin. As the theme of joy and devotion

continued, she organized people to create hilarious dance skits and routines. Her support for all dance groups and events was steadfast, and again, often bringing shared snack plates or her famous biscotti cookies to show her appreciation. In 2013, The Terraces here in Chico had no idea what they were in for when she chose this facility to spend her final years. Once again, the friends she made through her participation and advocacy represented her zest for life and purpose. President of the Resident Council, line dance teacher, blackjack card shuffler, Wii bowling (bowled 17 perfect games right-handed and 8 perfect games left handed!), and talent show organizer were a few of her endeavors, even with the challenges of severe macular degeneration and scoliosis. Her brightest and proudest accomplishment was being instrumental in starting a Christmas fund at The Terraces. Throughout the year, residents contribute to the fund as a way of saying thank you to the workers who cannot accept tips. The funds are distributed each December. The perpetual fund has been named in Lorraine's honor as her legacy will live on at The Terraces.

Lorraine was a gatherer, like no other, with an incredible ability to bring laughter, passion, and fairness to all, not to mention her list of never-ending quirky sayings. An amazing woman graced our family and friends for 96 years.

A celebration of life will be held later in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of the two following organizations:

-The Lorraine Kurtela Christmas Staff Fund 2750 Sierra Sunrise Terrace #325, Chico, CA 95928 Make checks payable to: The Lodge at The Terraces -Enloe Hospice 249 W. Sixth Avenue Chico, CA 95928 Web: <http://www.enloe.org/foundation>

Comments



“ I worked at The Terraces as a housekeeper for 2 years. She was always sweet to me and always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone that needed it. She will be missed.

Joanna - March 31 at 07:14 PM