



## Vendura Vitale

August 17, 1931 - March 6, 2021

Vendura "Dolly" Vitale

August 17, 1931-March 6, 2021

Our mother, our grandmother, our aunt, our teacher, our friend Vendura Mary (Rotondo) Vitale passed away on Saturday, March 6 in her home at the Waterford at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. She was 89 years old.

Known most of her life as "Dolly," she was born on August 17, 1931, in Toledo. She was the sixth of seven children born to Laura and Frank Rotondo and the first to be born in the United States after her family emigrated from Bari, Italy.

After graduating from Libbey High School in 1949, Dolly enrolled at the University of Toledo, where she met James Vitale, another first-year student from Jersey City, N.J. They married on May 30, 1953, and were true partners for 38 years until his death in December 1991.

Although she lost her father when she was 8 and her mother when she was just 18, Dolly was one-half of a great parenting duo. And while raising five children, she returned to the University of Toledo as an education major and earned her bachelor's degree in 1974. She taught for 17 years in Washington Local Schools, at Horace Mann Elementary and Jefferson Junior High. She helped inspire a daughter, three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews to become teachers.

Mom is survived by her five children: Rosanne (David) Florea, Frank (Kathy Beck), James Jr. (Julie), Patricia (Emile) Mahanti, and Bob (JJ Crisostomo). Grandma, also known as Granny and Macaroni, is survived by her 10 grandchildren-Jessica Florea and David (Caitlin) Florea; Sean (Jennifer) Tracey, Heather (Dominic) Millheim, and Nathan Vitale; Sarah (Matt) Long, Alison (Steve) Weiss, and Gabrielle Vitale; Ravi Mahanti and Deven Mahanti-and 11 great-grandchildren. Aunt Dolly is survived by many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, Dolly was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters: Nick (Virginia) Rotondo, Serafina (Nick) DiLorenzo, Frank (Alice) Rotondo, Chiara (John) Sturniolo, Anna (Joseph) Restifo, and Catherine (Sam) Arite.

Dolly was proud of her family and her heritage, and she passed on Italian traditions, proverbs and cooking skills to three new generations.

She lives in our hearts and fond memories.

Coyle Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Please leave a condolence message for the family at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

"Her jewel-like eyes reflect her brilliant mind. Her great ambitions cannot be confined." -  
-1949 Libbey High School Edelian.

# Cemetery

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## **Toledo Memorial Park**

6382 Monroe St

Sylvania, OH, 43560

# Comments

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“ My Sympathy and prayers in the loss of "Aunt Dolly" she was a beautiful person,who was loved by all,may she rest in peace!



**Rita M. Zeller** - March 22 at 12:55 PM

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“ Dear Jim and family: I am so sorry for your great loss. Your mother and father meant so much to me. Your dad was my coach and teacher and friend. Your parents were good friends with my parents and my memory is that my dad, as athletic director, highly recommended your dad as a coach for Rogers where they became fast friends and where your dad succeeded my dad as AD. I remember those years with great fondness. I met your mother socially many times but your mom did a great service for my family for which I will be eternally indebted. My mother died unexpectedly in 1978 and I was my dad's only relative in Toledo. At the time my wife, Carol, and I were working full time and going to night law school. I really had no idea what to do and my dad was inconsolable. Your mom and dad realized the situation and your mom really took charge. She practically fed us for months. And it was all homemade and Italian. Delicious. ( My dad loved your mother's cooking and he was very particular when it came to Italian food. In fact, the only Italian restaurant my parents ever took me too in Toledo was Mother Cipriani's on York St.) Carol and I loved your mom's cooking too. She helped my dad immensely make decisions and get through a very difficult time. She was wonderful and I will always remember. However I wasn't sure any of you were old enough to remember this lovely act of human kindness. She will be greatly missed. Thank you Dolly. Charlie Contrada

**Charles Contrada** - March 18 at 12:10 PM

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“ I love this woman! What a beautiful person - inside and out! Dolly was one of the most positive, encouraging and delightful women I have known. She always had something good to say about everyone and she had a great sense of humor. May she rest in peace!  
My heartfelt condolences to the Vitale family. She will me missed.

Katharine Hurst

Katharine Hurst - March 18 at 10:13 AM

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“ two of the most wonderful people i ever had the privilege of knowing, jim and dolly vitale

kelly cartwright - March 16 at 01:32 PM

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“ A profound loss. Dolly was always the first person I wanted to see and talk to at family gatherings. You could count on cheerfulness every single time, and a real conversation, terrific advice, sympathetically given. I once admired a scarf she was wearing to which she had added sparkles; it was one of a kind; and the next time I saw her, she had made one for me!.  
The Obituary (hard to say) conveyed the essence of her spirit, the courage of her decisions, the determination to succeed which she surely did.  
The Jewish tradition has a saying for these occasions, "May her memory be a blessing".  
She was a blessing her whole life.  
Condolences to all her ever growing family.  
Annie Kaplan

Ann Kaplan - March 16 at 01:28 PM

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“ Jim & Julie, Thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family over your loss!  
Paul & Emily Komisarek

Paul Komisarek - March 16 at 11:31 AM

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“ Sending hugs to all of the Vitale family. Your mother was a beautiful lady in all ways. So kind and warm welcoming to me whenever I had the chance to see her. May your many memories help at this difficult time, and may she be dancing with your dad again.  
RIP Mrs. Vitale

**Christine** - March 15 at 01:05 PM

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“ Roseanne and siblings,

I always loved being in your home on Templar because of the warm welcome, the great smells and the fun atmosphere. I know your mom set the tone for the household, encouraging you all to pursue your passions. I'll never forget the time she took us to my very first Ann Arbor Art festival - opening our eyes to all forms of art ... and some interestingly dressed artists!

I'm glad to see that she could be in your lives for so many years.

Sandy (Lewis) Luetke

**Sandy Luetke** - March 14 at 08:03 PM

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“ Dear Jim, Frank, Bob, and Sisters,

I have always had a lot of respect for you and your family. It is evident that your Mom and Dad (who I did know) were solid parents to have raised such good children. Your Mom looked like she was a warm, loving person! I am sure that she will be greatly missed...

I wish you and the rest of your family peace that only God can give.

With Respect,

Jim Koval

**James E Koval** - March 14 at 05:57 PM

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“ We extend our prayers and sympathies to your family. Dolly was a cheery, loving soul who made us all feel loved and welcomed at family events. The traditions she passed on will live with us forever. Tina DiTerlizzi Hill and the entire Pasquale DiTerlizzi Family.

Tina Hill - March 14 at 11:56 AM

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“ I was lucky enough to be introduced to the Italian culture by Dolly. I spent a lot of time with the family because of my friendship with Rosanne. Dolly really listened when we had questions. She was a powerful positive influence on me. I will always be grateful for her.

julie dicecco - March 14 at 11:01 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Vendura Vitale.



March 14 at 10:46 AM

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“ Dear Cousins  
My heart is full of sadness and emotion with the loss of your Mom and my sweet Dolly. I knew her since I was 6 years when she and Catherine were welcomed to join our family and home when Gramma died. They were like my two big sisters. Your Mom grew to be like a second Mom as did her sisters. The sweet memories of Dolly and her beautiful smile and soft understanding nature inspires me every day. Too many memories to mention, never enough time. She will be so missed and will always be in our hearts. I love you Dolly.

Theresa (Tesa Sturniolo) Dooley - March 14 at 10:12 AM