



Florence Riley Bates

October 11, 1925 - December 16, 2016

Riley-Bates, Florence Josephine (Azbart)

Florence Josephine Riley-Bates (Azbart) passed away peacefully December 16, 2016 at the home of her son Robert. She was born in Toledo, Ohio on October 11, 1925 to Mary and George Azbart.

Florence will be remembered for her selfless dedication to others, her love of life, and for her grace and beauty. Growing up she was known for her wonderful singing voice, often performing solos with the choir. She was a natural and devoted caregiver; as a big sister, as a young woman taking care of her parents in later years, and as a wife, mother and grandmother. She was there with a comforting and compassionate ear and a nurse's touch. Florence was an exceptional cook and enjoyed providing great meals to all her family and friends.

She married Gerald Riley in 1947 and together they raised two sons, Ronald and Robert. Because of Gerald's poor health Florence cared for him around the clock for many years until his death in 1980. In 1982 she married Dr. George Bates and the two families grew together around her loving spirit. When George's health declined she again became a devoted caregiver until his passing in 2010.

She is survived by her sister Bernie, sons Ronald (Celeste) and Robert (Deborah); step sons Christopher (Karen) Bates and Brian (Sherry) Bates; step daughter Andrea Bates; step daughters-in-law Anne Bates Smith and Melanie Bates; grandchildren Kate (Paul) Zelensky, James Riley, David Riley,

John Riley, Justin Riley, Connor Riley; step-grandchildren Judd Bates, Lisa (Kiernan) Mattson, Stephen (Jackie) Bates, Emma (Paul) Kitzmiller, Sarah (Dan) Grey, Jonathan Bates, Marie (DJ) Deleo, Griffin Bates, Erin Bates, Nora Bates, and Mary Bates; nine great-grandchildren; and by many great nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by parents George and Mary Azbart, brother David, sisters Mary Ann and Loretta, husbands Gerald Riley and Dr. George Bates, step-sons George Bates Jr., Philip Bates, step-daughter Seana Bates, and grandson Daniel Riley.

Florence will be deeply missed by all her friends and family. Florence would want any memorial to her to be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital <https://www.stjude.org/> to honor the memory of her brother, David, and grandson, Daniel.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Tuesday, December 27 from 4-7 p.m. The funeral ceremony will begin at Coyle on Wednesday, December 28 at 10:30, followed by mass at the Historic Church of St. Patricks at 11 a.m. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

Please leave a condolence message for the family at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral

DEC 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Historic Church Of St Patrick
130 Avondale Ave
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Our family shares many fond memories of Florence, especially when, as children she welcomed us over to swim in their built-in swimming pool! What a luxury for a handful of kids! Always graceful, always thoughtful, always loving, and always will be in our hearts! Our deepest condolences to all of Florence's family and loved ones. Judith (Chlebowski) Holcomb & Ed Chlebowski Family

Judith (Chlebowski) Holcomb - December 27, 2016 at 05:40 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Florence Riley Bates.



December 27, 2016 at 01:19 PM



“ Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Florence Riley Bates.



December 27, 2016 at 12:01 PM

PH

“ Although technically our cousin, all of the Chlebowski children called her 'Aunt' Florence. Always classy, kind and compassionate, it seemed within minutes of being in the same room with my father Ed, the laughter would start, the kind of laughing that had them leaning on each other and wiping their eyes. And it wouldn't stop until they parted. She was a beautiful person, inside and out. We are so very sorry for your loss.

*Condolences on behalf of the Loretta (Ed) Chlebowski Family,
Patty Chlebowski Hoffman*

Patricia Hoffman - December 27, 2016 at 11:53 AM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Florence Riley Bates.*



December 27, 2016 at 11:40 AM

JM

“ *To a wonderful neighbor, friend on Clifton Blvd. and through the years. one of my fond memories is her stopping by the house as I practiced playing my organ to The "Sound of Music" and sang along so beautifully. She was a good friend and neighbor to my parents and myself then and over the years. She helped make Clifton the best neighborhood to grow up in which I have loving memories. To her family, May God grant you comfort in all of your loving and happy memories that you hold close in your hearts. In our deepest and sincerest sympathy,
Roy and Joyce(Torzewski) Moses (Toledo and Estero, FL)*

Joyce Moses - December 26, 2016 at 10:30 AM

MD

“ We send our condolences to Mrs. Bates family. She was a great lady and will be missed very much.

The DiLucchio Family

Melissa DiLucchio - December 25, 2016 at 04:14 PM