



## Mrs. Elinor A. (Fernandes) Curri

February 2, 1926 - April 23, 2020

UTICA - It's with great sadness the family of Elinor Curri (Ellie) shares her sudden passing to be with her Lord on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at the age of 94.

Elinor was born in Utica on February 2, 1926 to Harry and Alice Fernandes of Madeira, Portugal who had migrated to America. She was raised and educated in Utica. Elinor or "Vava", as she was lovingly called by those who loved her, was fiercely devoted to her family and made certain that they were connected to their Portuguese heritage. You'd often hear her speaking Portuguese and sharing traditions to pass along to her children and grandchildren.

She enjoyed a long career as a banking professional, starting as a pioneer in her industry as a bank teller at Oneida National Bank and ending 30 years later as a Loan Officer. Even in her retirement, the bank called her back to work part time and she willingly accepted. Elinor was loved and respected by everyone who crossed her path and had the pleasure of knowing her. She was a woman of loyalty, integrity, and honor.

Blessed with a special relationship with the Lord that made her vibrant, Vava mentored her family in the same manner. She was a devout Catholic and loyal disciple of God and had the intuition to help others find their love for the Lord through her ministry work. She served as a Eucharistic Minister and Catechist at St. Mary's Church and later at St. Anthony's Church.

Elinor spent her time in retirement dedicated to volunteering for Hospice and

prison ministry. She inspired people with the Lord's words and changed the hearts of many. Elinor was a bright light for many who needed love and support. Heaven has surely gained an angel and we will miss her, but she will be in our hearts and our souls forever.

Elinor is survived by her daughter, Mary Alyce Curri-Kornbluth; son and daughter-in-law, Nicholas and Nancy Curri; her adored grandchildren and their spouses, Mindy and Robert Sherman, Richard and Marie Curri, Daniel and Ashley Curri, Joseph and Alyssa Curri, and Franklin and Isaiah Kornbluth; great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Brayden, Vincent, Trevor, Cameron, Logan, Joseph Jr., Kara, and Lana; and her sister, Mary Leach. Vava would also like to send her love to Jeff and Ana Schneider, Lisa, Stacey, and Sarah Leva, and Marilyn and Dick Wester; and her many lifelong friends. She was predeceased by her brother, Harry Fernandes; and the many, many friends who have gone before her.

All funeral services will be held privately. In lieu of floral offerings, donations in Elinor's memory may be made to Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Jules Xavier Schneider Barn, PO Box 122, Mystic, CT 06355.

"You are my sunshine"

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *It is with deepest sadness that I write this on behalf of mom, Elinor's cousin, Marie & the rest of the Branagh family. We are saddened to hear of the passing of one of the most beloved Portuguese women to our family.*

*Our Branagh childhood Utica memories are tied to memories of Elinor & that gorgeous smile of hers. She was always so warm, inviting and welcoming to each of us.*

*She was an amazing friend & companion to Marie's mom, Mary Rodrigues. She would take care of helping get Grandma's groceries, medications, or help get Grandma to church (or) bring Grandma Holy Communion when Grandma couldn't make it to church. She was truly a blessing in Grandma's life.*

*I had the great fortune of being able to visit with Elinor and Mom in Elinor's apartment in 2017 and 2018. There I was reminded again of what a true woman of God Elinor was & what an amazing ministry she had been called to do in her life, especially with the prison population.*

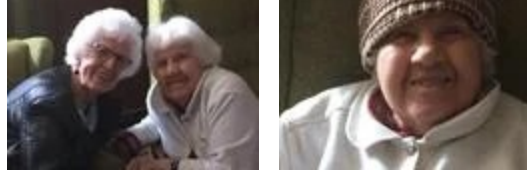
*Her wit and sense of humor were so fun - she was wry and you had to stay on your feet to catch all her humor. Mom enjoyed being able to speak Portuguese with her cousin - to remember the language they both had grown up with. She was feisty and spunky on our visits with her & we truly enjoyed our time with her.*

*We have faith, as did dear Elinor, that she is now at Eternal Rest with our Lord.*

*Our deepest sympathy to her sister Mary, her children Mary Alyce, Nick & Nancy and all her beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren.*

*With love,  
The Branagh family*

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**Mary Lynne Hamilton** - May 04, 2020 at 06:50 PM

AH

“*Dear Mary Alyce, Nick and Families,  
Our condolences to you and your families at this sorrowful time. I am sure, for all your mom’s grandchildren, Mindy painted a beautiful testament and tribute in honor of their VaVa.  
I too could relate to the memory of golfing at Valley View, except; we use to walk from  
your home on Sedgewick Park, on a path through the woods.  
I am certain my dad and my sister, Karen, among many others, were there to receive her. Cherish the “Memories”  
Sincerely,  
Anita, Ron & Herron Family*

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**Anita Herron** - May 01, 2020 at 08:10 AM