



## Grace (Basmajian) Caldwell

May 12, 1931 - March 3, 2015

Mrs. Grace (Basmajian) Caldwell, age 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with her loving family at her side.

Born in Marcy, NY on May 12, 1931, Grace was the daughter of the late Charles and Almas (Avakian) Basmajian. Raised and educated locally, she was a graduate of Whitesboro High School/Class of 1949. She continued her education at the Utica School of Commerce, a proud accomplishment for her and her family. Upon completion of her course work and with a patriotic commitment to serve her country during the Korean War Era, Grace enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) branch of the United States Army. She completed her basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina with the knowledge and expectation that WAC recruits must be physically able to take on any job assigned to them. As a proud veteran, waves of memories flooded her mind from this time period and remained with her all her life. At one time, Grace was married to Ray Caldwell of Montgomery, Alabama whom she had met when they were both in military service. They were blessed with three children and through the many years of serving their country, they lived in several places. Grace's working career included active employment with many local businesses including the General Electric Company on Broad Street where she worked as an assembler, Devine Brothers, Lane Hydraulics, Hamilton Digital, the Utica Public Library, and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company from which she retired. The years that followed allowed Grace to be

active in the lives of her grandchildren who she loved so deeply and so passionately. She encouraged them to build good character and trust in themselves. She instilled in them the importance of education, traditional values, and honesty. During this period of bonding with her grandchildren, she realized that she had planted these very seeds in her children and she was aware that her nurturing had taken root. She was so proud and sentimental about the accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. Grace was an exceptionally bright woman and a seeker of knowledge. A serious reader, she developed an extensive library over the years which allowed her to develop a vast vocabulary and command of the language in conversation. But she also complemented her cultural pursuits with a little leisure time which she pursued with intensity --- watching her soap operas! Holidays were important to her and Dessert Pie was her specialty. Always a physical fitness enthusiast, she practiced meditation and adhered to a healthy life style filled with balanced meals. Throughout her life, she was admired for her style and elegance. She was always 'dressed to the nines', a true fashionista. She enjoyed listening to the music of the Big Band Era, especially Frank Sinatra. She always believed that his song "My Way" was a reflection of her life. She enjoyed bowling, gardening, and tending to the flowers she planted around her house. She also supported the arts and the Stanley Theater. She lovingly offered her time and understanding to others, and she cherished the relationships she formed over the years. She tried to be the best human being she could be. She was a great confidant to many who will hold her memory in their hearts. Grace was baptized into the Armenian Orthodox faith and she practiced her religion at the Maynard Methodist Church where she attended services in her earlier years. In the broad spectrum of her life, Grace was cognizant of all religious creeds and held a respect for diverse spiritual beliefs. She asked her children to accept all aspects of humanity and to be non-judgmental and see the good in all people. She wanted them to possess a positive outlook on life and to see the glass 'always half full, not half empty'. Her wisdom was spot-on, and in retrospect, her children learned so much from her about the values of life and

the importance of living each day with a happy heart, an open mind, and a helping hand.

Grace is survived by her children, Cheryl Lynne Caldwell Kain and her husband Barrett of New Orleans, LA, Derrick K. "Rick" and Arlene M. Caldwell of Pittsburgh, PA; Honorable Randal B. "Randy" Caldwell, Oneida County Family Court Judge and his companion Rose Grimaldi who was so special to Grace; they were the best of friends. She will be remembered by her grandchildren, Caroline Grace Kain, and Ian Caldwell Kain; Courtney Elizabeth Caldwell; Alexandra Ann Caldwell, and Brendan Randal Caldwell. Always close to her heart were the memories of her twin grandsons, Brandon Scott Verminski, Sr. who passed away on September 21, 2003, and Jeffrey A. Verminski who passed away on November 16, 2003. Her legacy will live on in her great-grandchildren, Brandon Scott Verminski, Jr., and Aria Grace-May Bonilla; her brother, Robert Basmajian of Marcy; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; and the blessings of many special friendships throughout her wonderful life. She was preceded in death by her brothers and sister-in-law, Arthur and Josephine Basmajian, and John Basmajian; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Helen and Walter Hotaling, Alice and Joseph Taylor; as well as 4 infant siblings.

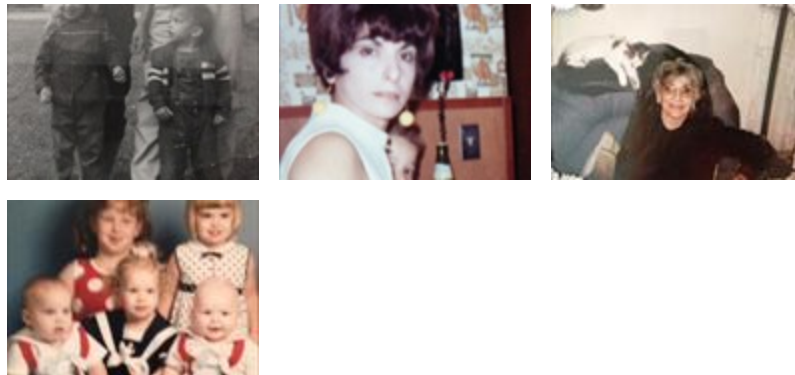
Grace's family is forever thankful to the Maynard Fire Department, Kunkel Ambulance, and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center, especially the staff of the ER and ICU; all of these professionals were so kind and compassionate at their time of need. Special acknowledgement is extended to Dr. Bruce Elwell who shared a personal relationship with Grace laced with honesty and regard. The family commemorated her life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Grace's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will be offered on Thursday afternoon at 1:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. James Cesta. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of floral offerings, those wishing to express an act

of kindness may make a donation to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society in memory of her late Maltese, "Jolie" who she adored, or to the Maynard Volunteer Fire Department; envelopes will be available at the service. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

# Tribute Wall

CO

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Courtney** - March 14, 2015 at 01:15 PM

WE

“ *Randy and family,*

*We are so very sorry for your loss. We just found out. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.*

*Andy, Wendy, Andrew & Alex Egresits*



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**Wendy Egresits** - March 09, 2015 at 05:18 PM

CL

“ *Randy & Rose*

*My deepest condolences to you and your families...*

*Chris Lambert*

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**Christopher Lambert** - March 09, 2015 at 08:23 AM

SC

“ Randy & Family  
So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers  
Paul, Sharon, Courtney, Stephanie & Jessica Scharbach

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**Scharbach** - March 07, 2015 at 09:12 PM

RP

“ Randy, Rose and family....our deepest  
condolences and sympathy on the loss of  
your Beloved Mom. Now she is reunited with  
her family and with Jesus forever...no more  
pain or suffering....Grace is an Angel with  
Wings.....our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Mass and  
those in attendance were a tribute to Grace. Until we all meet  
again.....  
Ralph & Rose Paladino



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**Ralph Paladino** - March 07, 2015 at 05:30 PM

TF

“ Please accept our sincere condolences on your  
mother's passing. She and family will be in our  
prayers.



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**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - March 07, 2015 at 04:54 AM

“ I wasn't able to be there to say goodbye, but you meant so much to me. This is for you, my "grammama". "Simple elegance or refinement". Perhaps, the literal meaning of Grace itself denotes what my grandma stood for in all realms of her life. She embodied what her name meant, she carried herself with dignity, and walked through all her life that way. In Ephesians 2: 8-10, " For it is by grace you have been saved, through Faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advanced for us to do". This verse translates into the life that she lead. A life not lead in vain, without falling prey to the ways of man to define your inner spirit, but relying on yourself and your Faith to deliver in a way closely matched to respecting what God calls man to attest to. In Corinthians 4 16:18, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." This perhaps summarizes how my grandma spent the last several years of her life. While her body seemed to continue to fail her, she endured it with strength, perseverance and poise. She didn't let what physically plagued her, affect her mind. She kept her head up, her heart open, and her spirit enduring. I think to me if I had to pick one word to sum up my grandma, it'd be strength. Not only did she give it the fight of her life to overcome all her health problems, but she was strong no matter what came her way in all parts of her life. Her strength was so commendable to me.

To me, she was "grammama", I remember being little and that's what she would always call herself to me, when I was learning how to talk. Every time I walked in her house she'd pinch my cheeks, I swear until they turned bright red, and that I began to associate that as her term of endearment, her usual greeting to me, and I'll never forget that. Something so special to me was the painstaking time she took with me every year, for every dance recital. Every show, every performance, she was my personal make-up artist, and she always told me the beauty in enhancing an "au natural" version of yourself. That excess make up wasn't fitting for a lady. She

*encompassed what being a lady was all about; in behavior, style, and values. She taught me how to make bread, yogurt, baklava, and grape leaves, to name a few. And boy was she a fierce soul, she could stand her ground to anyone, on any subject, and that's what made her so respectable. I often heard my dad say when I was growing up, "you just like your grandma" and I don't think I really ever understood what he was saying until recently. The thing about her that was so special was that she actually cared to hear what you had to say, or to see and hear about the accomplishments in your life. To her, everything was sentimental, and I think that's what made her enjoy life so much. Each day, each moment was brand new and valuable to her. My absolute favorite memory of her was the tradition of reading "The Night Before Christmas" on every Christmas Eve. Now, not only did she read it, I swear she acted the whole thing out. To me, that made Christmas, it's what kept the spirit of believing alive, and the magic enduring. And this Christmas, I started the same tradition with my daughter. I remember my last conversation with her, she was so excited and genuine in knowing what was new in my life. The last thing she said to me was that's my girl, doing things your way, just like your grandma. Just like the lyrics to her favorite song, perhaps, that's the best about thing about her is "She did it her way". --I'll always love you, Courtney*

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**Courtney** - March 05, 2015 at 06:08 PM

DC

“*Dear Randy, Rose and family  
Bernie and I are out of town, but you are in our thoughts and  
prayers at this sad time.  
Doreen and Bernie Carcone*

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**Doreen Carcone** - March 05, 2015 at 05:29 AM

DC

“ *Doreen Carcone lit a candle in memory of Grace (Basmajian) Caldwell*



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**Doreen Carcone** - March 05, 2015 at 05:26 AM

MK

“ *Judge Caldwell,*

*I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing, my heart goes out to you. I hope my prayers serve as comfort to you and your family.*



*Myron M. Kuchera*

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**Myron M. Kuchera** - March 04, 2015 at 03:49 PM

GS

*Dear Randy and family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all, with deepest sympathy! Gina, Phil, Alexa and Dominique Schillaci*

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**Gina Schillaci** - March 05, 2015 at 07:59 AM

CC

“ *C. Michael Caldwell purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Grace (Basmajian) Caldwell.*



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**C. Michael Caldwell** - March 04, 2015 at 02:41 PM

BF

“ *Randy and Family,*

*Our family sends our most sincere condolences for the loss of your Mom.*

*Bill, Grace and Amanda Fiekds*

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**Bill Fields** - March 04, 2015 at 11:48 AM



“ *Pink & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Grace (Basmajian) Caldwell.*



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March 03, 2015 at 10:58 PM