



Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn

May 25, 2020

Wellington, FL – Phyllis Allegretto Finn passed away peacefully at the home of her daughter on Monday, May 25, 2020, at the age of 95. Phyllis was born in Utica, NY, to the late Philip and Philomena (Rosa) Allegretto. Her father passed away four months after she was born, a circumstance that shaped her life. Raised through her early years by her loving step-grandmother and grandfather with help from very supportive family members, she attended St. Mary of Mount Carmel parish school, ultimately graduating as the individual, male or female, with the highest grades of any in her Class of 1942 at St. Francis de Sales High School. Throughout her life she kept in touch with her seventh grade teacher, Sister M. Prudencia Ladiski, who had greatly influenced her high school years.

Graduating from high school during World War II, Phyllis went directly to work at the newly built Rhoads Hospital, one of the great orthopedic hospitals of the U.S. Army, also becoming involved with the Red Cross onsite. The war ended in 1945, the hospital closed in 1946, and Phyllis became a private secretary in the administrative offices of Hamilton College. In 1949 she married Thomas J. Finn, talented salesman and musician. Phyllis worked for Westinghouse and also for RCA before she joined General Electric Company in 1958, where she then held various positions of increasing responsibility across more than 27 years, obtaining a degree from Mohawk Valley Community College, and continuing at Utica College while working fulltime, and advancing to become one of the first female proposal consultants at GE, thus holding responsibility

to prepare company proposals for government projects.

Retiring from GE in 1985 to pursue her passions, Phyllis spent winters in Florida, most recently located in Wellington to cheer for her daughter and friends in competition at the Winter Equestrian Festival. She enjoyed playing golf and bridge and always was ready to dance and celebrate no matter the occasion. She was an avid reader and enjoyed writing essays, stories and letters. Always with her camera in hand, she memorialized the significant occasions of her many friends and family earning the nickname Brenda Starr. Travel was a lifetime passion, which led her to achieve her goal to visit all 50 states in the USA as well as to enjoy excursions to such distant places as Italy, Ireland, Spain and North Africa.

Always a people person, Phyllis rarely met anyone who did not become a friend. Always active, she was ready to go at a moment's notice. She had an uncanny ability to relate to persons of any age, from toddlers to the elderly, aware and supportive of the unique interests of each individual. She was an independent adventurer, a classy and special lady. She described herself as "a persuasive, tactful, dependable, enthusiastic, assertive and creative self-starter". Her smile would light up the room. She will be missed by so many who came to know her and love her through the years.

Phyllis is survived by her daughter, Marsha Finn Dammerman; cousin Dolores Manganelli; nephews Anthony (Lauretta) Taurisano, Philip (Barbara) Taurisano, John Talerico, Mark (Linda) Taurisano; second cousins Claudia Manganelli, Diana (Carl) Grimes; her son-in-law's sister Carol Galloway and brother Randy (Joanne) Burmester; her grandchildren David (Christy Alexander) Dammerman, Heather (David Wesoloski) Dammerman; great grandchildren Eric Dammerman, Craig and Emma Wesoloski; great nieces and nephews Renee Rizzuti, Michele Tomassetti, Marc Taurisano, Jon (Becca) Taurisano, Dana (David) Percia, Anthony Taurisano, Scott (Kelly) Galloway, Wendi (James Henderkott) Galloway, Holly (Mark) Fedorcik, Amy (Brandon) Graham, Jared Burmester; great great nieces and nephews Christina and Catherine Rizzuti, Marisa Tomassetti, Bridget and Caroline

Taurisano, Dominick Taurisano, Brandon (Teryn) Galloway, Justin (Britny Shaver) Knight, Amanda (Bob Sievers) Knight, Jakob Galloway, Samuel Henningsen, Palmer and Sawyer Fedorcik, Jaxon Graham; great great great nieces and nephews, Aubrey Knight, Alex, Avery and Henry Sievers; as well as extended sister Sally Burke; extended grandchildren Judy Dore (mother of Eric), Stacy (Joey) DeSabella; and extended great grandchildren Olivia and Carly DeSabella, Allison GiamBruno (daughter of Christy).

Phyllis was predeceased by Thomas J. Finn, her sisters and their husbands Lucille (Michael) Taurisano and Marie (Angelo) Talerico, her son-in-law Dennis D. Dammerman, her cousin's husband Joseph Manganelli, Dennis' mother Louise Lichtenstein, Dennis' step-mother Viola Dammerman, his brother-in-law Dwain Galloway, Sally's husband Gene Burke, and many other family members and dear friends who have sadly gone before her.

The family wishes to extend their appreciation to the home health care aides in Saratoga Springs, NY, and in Wellington, FL, as well as to the many friends and relatives who helped Phyllis enjoy her later years.

All funeral services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in memory of Phyllis to Abraham House, Inc., 1203 Kemble Street, Utica, NY, 13501, online at <https://www.theabrahamhouse.org/ways-to-donate/> or to the charity of your choice.

Please take a moment to connect with Phyllis' family through the "Memories" section of her obituary.

Tribute Wall

DO

“ We grew up like sisters. That is how I always felt about you.i will always love you.

Dolores - June 21, 2020 at 04:04 PM

MJ

“ Marsha,
Thinking of you during this sad time. You have been a wonderful daughter to the very end. So interesting to read Phyllis's obituary. She always was a people person, but so interesting to read about her many accomplishments. She certainly was an amazing person. She will be missed by many. We will all remember her lovely smile, and the joy she always seemed to exude. May she rest in peace.
Martha Jolicoeur

Martha W. Jolicoeur - June 17, 2020 at 01:24 PM

CG

“ We are family and I will miss Phyllis. I became a part of this family in 1997 and Phyllis made me feel comfortable. I'll always remember how she would say she was “my biggest fan”. She even babysat my grandson and entertained him with charming stories and even a few backflips.what a personality she had. She rests peacefully now, and I'll always remember her lovely smile. God bless her soul.



Carl Grimes - June 11, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn.



June 09, 2020 at 08:25 PM



“ Cathy Donnell Conklin sent a virtual gift in memory of Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn



Cathy Donnell Conklin - June 09, 2020 at 12:12 AM



I worked with Phyllis at GE for a number of years and loved that perky smile and joy that emanated from Phyllis's face, eyes and smile that never stopped flowing. She was so good at what she did in the proposal development at GE and she was always reaching out with a helping hand to me when I was starting out there. I remember her so well. What a joy to be in her presence. I will lift up prayers for her and all of her family.

Cathy Donnell Conklin - June 09, 2020 at 12:18 AM

RC

“ Dear Marsha,
We were so sorry to hear the very sad news. Although we did not know your mother well, on the occasions we were together, we found her to be an extremely kind and caring person, always interested in and supportive of others. She brought joy to the hearts of those around her.
Best wishes, and we hope to see you at a future Skidmore event.
Rick and Diana Crookes

Richard R Crookes - June 08, 2020 at 08:20 PM

CT

“ Dear Marsha, my deepest sympathy in the loss of your mom and truly a beautiful woman. She always welcomed us into her home and felt special.

Colleen

Colleen Truax - June 07, 2020 at 07:03 AM

AP

“ I will always remember the wonderful times I had with Phyllis over the years, both as a co-worker and a personal friend. Her positive and enthusiastic personality was contagious. With all her attributes, kindness was at the top. She was a joy to have as a part of your life. My sincere sympathy to you Marsha and your family. God's comfort and blessings, Anne Popeo

Anne Popeo - June 06, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn.*



June 04, 2020 at 11:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn.*



June 04, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ *Phyllis could light up a room with her smile. She would always remind me that her favorite color was red. She had the best sense of humor. Phyllis will truly be missed. Rest In Peace*

Lisa Jean-Louis - June 04, 2020 at 11:09 AM

TD

“ There is so much to say about this lovely lady here Mrs. Phyllis Finn, who I had the pleasure to meet and worked for over 4 years. Lisa and myself. Wow, 😭 Phyllis was a very sweet and kind person, always smiling, reading the news paper or the magazine that Tony would get her, her favorite word was ‘OHHH WOW’, everything was ‘OHH WOW’. She love, love her red flowers 🌹 Phyllis was loved by so much people, I enjoyed being around her and she will be missed dearly. My condolences to the family. Peace in Heaven Phyllis 😊

Love Tee & Lisa 🙏



Tee Dunston - June 04, 2020 at 10:21 AM

BT

“ Aunt Phyllis was a wonderful person with a smile that would light up the room. We will miss her greatly. Sending Marsha our love and prayers during this time. Jon, Becca, Bridget and Caroline Taurisano



Becca Taurisano - June 04, 2020 at 06:53 AM

AF

“ Our deepest condolences to Marsha and family, we didn't know Phyllis very well, but she always had a lovely smile, 🙏 Rip Phyllis your be greatly missed,



Alison & Des Farrell - June 03, 2020 at 07:57 PM

HL

“ Always ready to “fill you up” with love and good cheer by wit and hugs or her homemade spaghetti sauce, she always made you feel good. Watching the horses, race or show jump, she easily improved the day with easy conversation. I could also always count on her to know the real score with what was in play socially, she shared the kind thoughts she had about people freely. I was sorry that she lost that ability towards the twilight of her life, but I am better for having known and spent time with her before then. Love you



Holly Little - June 03, 2020 at 06:54 PM

PJ

“ That is a beautiful picture, I have very fond memories of Phyllis from Wellington, Fl, she really made me smile, I will miss her..
Sincere condolences to the family

Pam Jackson - June 03, 2020 at 06:08 PM

JS

“ Jacqueline Sgroi sent a virtual gift in memory of
Phyllis (Allegretto) Finn



Jacqueline Sgroi - June 03, 2020 at 03:22 PM

CS

“ *What a loving and interesting woman! Her light will continue to shine through her brilliant daughter. We will miss her.*
Alan and Carolyn Stampe

Carolyn Stampe - June 03, 2020 at 01:35 PM

KC

“ *Phyllis was such a Sweet Woman with a Magical Smile ... May She rest Peacefully* 💕💕

Kelly Clark - June 03, 2020 at 01:00 PM

KS

“ *Many condolences to the family at the loss of a beautiful and special lady. Phyllis was there with a smile for all of Marsha's friends and I feel privileged to have know this lovely person.* Kathy Stoddard

Kathy Stoddard - June 03, 2020 at 12:47 PM

JD

“ *Phyllis was a one-in-a-million woman who made a difference in the lives of so many. I feel so fortunate to have her in my life — she made me smile and I admired her spirit.*

Words are failing me in conveying how much I loved Phyllis and how welcoming she was to me. So here’s a little anecdote about her:

One day I was hanging out in Marsha and Dennis’ a Florida pool with Phyllis and we were talking about books, a favorite subject of both of us. In passing, I mentioned a favorite book of mine. It was probably barely a mention. Well, a little while later, Phyllis gifted me with a copy of that book that she had found in a used bookstore. I was so incredibly touched. This is how thoughtful Phyllis was, and she extended that generosity to everyone.

Phyllis, I love you so much and will miss you. You were a true gift to the world.

Judy Dore - June 03, 2020 at 12:35 PM

CG

As part of her “Iowa” family I feel blessed that she was able to come visit as often as she did so I and my family had the opportunity to get to know her. We shared some really great times and we all loved her. She will be missed.

Carol Galloway - June 03, 2020 at 05:56 PM

BC

“ *A wonderful woman who lived a wonderful life and lived life to the fullest. Although I knew her only a few years , her sweetness and love of life was always present. She will be missed by many.
Condolences to the family*

Bobbie Cromer - June 03, 2020 at 12:29 PM

TS

“ Witty, wholesome, and charming are a few words to describe Phyllis. She was a natural light-- a pure soul-- it was an honor to have been in her presence.

Tiffani Stobbs - June 03, 2020 at 12:09 PM

KM

“ There is so much to be said about this amazing woman who I had the pleaser of meeting over 15yrs ago and who had been such a loving bright spirit. You will be truly missed, and especially remembered on your birthday where I would sing to you. Celebrating your 95th birthday was magical as your eyes filled with tears of joy as I knew you knew it was me. My sincere condolences to the family.

Ki-Juan Minors - June 03, 2020 at 11:28 AM

CM

Phyliss was a very kind, sweet woman I meet 20 years ago. Always had a smile on her face and kind words. I enjoyed being around her and she will be missed dearly.

CAROL Munzenrieder - June 03, 2020 at 12:02 PM

MS

“ I met Phyllis through her daughter Marsha and our shared love of horses. Even as an older person, Phyllis was truly animated and involved in life, always with a kind or wry comment. I remember her signature red lipstick and clothes. Phyllis was always immaculately turned out. As I lost my own mother at an early age, I came to think of Phyllis as sort of a mother in many ways. I remember Phyllis coming for a holiday luncheon, and my daughter's pit bull Nigel would not leave her side. He could just tell how kind she was. I will miss her birthday celebrations and her presence ringside at the horse show. I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to have known Phyllis. Mary K. Shaughnessy

Mary K. Shaughnessy - June 03, 2020 at 11:17 AM

JP

“ It saddened me to read that Phyllis had passed away. She was not only a dear friend, but a neighbor who I shared many good times with. Her radiant smile and intellect were amazing! I so enjoyed her company even though she had not been in Utica for quite some time. My heartfelt condolences to her family and friends both in Florida and Utica. Blessings to all!

Jeanette Penge, Utica

Jeanette Penge - June 02, 2020 at 04:55 PM

IK

Marsha, I am so sorry for your loss. My memories of your Mom go back many, many years ago when we were young and you lived across the street. She and Mom became friends. Over the years we would see her now and then before she moved. She was always so happy to see us even after many years. Prayers to you and your family. Irene (Trunfio) Kener Marcy, New York

irene Trunfio Kener - June 07, 2020 at 10:51 AM