



Andrea Lee McCarthy

August 1, 1944 - July 12, 2021

Andrea Lee McCarthy, 76, of Murrells Inlet, SC, formerly of Clinton, CT, passed away July 12, 2021 in Charleston, SC; surrounded by her loving family.

Andrea was the wife of James D. McCarthy and they enjoyed 54 years of marriage. Born in Hartford, CT, she was the daughter of the late Gus and Frances (Savitskas) Xantho.

Andrea and her husband James first met in grade school in East Hartford, CT, where they attended St. Mary's School. Both later lived in South Windsor, CT and attended Ellsworth High School, where Andrea was the last official graduate of the school when it permanently closed in 1962, as her last name began with "X".

Andrea and Jim married in 1966 and settled first in Wallingford and Meriden, CT and then raised their daughters in Clinton, CT. Andrea was a member of St. Mary's Church of the Visitation, where she served as Co-President of the Alter Society. She was also a volunteer for Shoreline Youth Theatre and Birthright. Andrea was employed for CT Bank and Trust and later for several restaurants, making their baked goods and desserts from scratch, before retiring to the sun and palm trees of Murrells Intlet, SC in 2004.

During her retirement, Andrea and Jim were volunteers for Freedom Readers, where they would provide youth with weekly reading support and guidance. In 2018, Andrea and Jim were named "Freedom Readers Volunteers of the Year".

Andrea served on the Board of Directors of Coastal Youth Ballet in Murrells Inlet, SC. Both Andrea and Jim appeared in CYB's annual holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker", as the Grandparents in the party scene.

Andrea was known for her love of entertaining, cooking, and baking; always from scratch. She loved to host block parties at their SC residence and was always gifting a neighbor with one of her latest "goodies".

In addition to her husband James, Andrea is survived by her two daughters, Catherine Benzi of Westbrook, CT and Elizabeth (Timothy) Holland of Winston, GA; seven grandchildren, Emily Benzi of East Lyme, CT; Christopher and Caroline Benzi of Westbrook, CT; and Abigail, Victoria, Aaron, and Matthew Holland of Winston, GA; sister Linda (Herman) Sparks of Douglasville, GA; and brother Gary (Linda) Xantho of GA; brother-in-law Dennis (Kathy) McCarthy of Myrtle Beach, SC; nieces Kristin Sparks of NY; Amanda Sparks of DE; and nephew Andrew Sparks of GA. Andrea cherished her family and will be dearly missed.

There will be a private celebration of life held in the fall, as this was Andrea's favorite season.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: Freedom Readers; Administration Office, 1012 16th Ave. NW #114, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 or at freedomreaders.networkforgood.com.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is serving the family.

Tribute Wall

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Cathy Benzi - August 19, 2021 at 02:12 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Cathy Benzi - August 19, 2021 at 02:11 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 19, 2021 at 02:09 PM

DT

“ *Jim, Cathy, Liz and family please accept my condolences. Andrea was a special, giving person and was a good friend. Dianne Turchen*

Dianne J Turchen - August 06, 2021 at 08:37 AM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 05, 2021 at 11:39 PM

CB

Andrea, Jim, Caroline & Emily Benzi

Cathy Benzi - August 05, 2021 at 11:48 PM

CB

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 05, 2021 at 11:31 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 03, 2021 at 04:18 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 03, 2021 at 04:16 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 03, 2021 at 04:15 PM

CB

Andrea and Jim, in "The Nutcracker"

Cathy Benzi - August 05, 2021 at 11:32 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cathy Benzi - August 03, 2021 at 04:14 PM

VT

“ Praying for your family, asking God to comfort you as only He can do.

With Love, Bob & Vicki Thomas

Vicki Thomas - July 28, 2021 at 07:00 AM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Cathy Benzi - July 27, 2021 at 08:23 AM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Cathy Benzi - July 27, 2021 at 08:19 AM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Cathy Benzi - July 26, 2021 at 06:41 PM

PF

“ Jimmy, please accept our deepest condolences on Andrea's passing. Carol and I have always said you and Andrea were some of the best friends we ever had. We will always cherish the good times we had with Andrea [Lunches, dinners, movies, theaters, music, block parties, family get togethers etc.] We know her family was always most important to her. She is now looking down on all of us. We hope and pray that all of your wonderful memories that you and your family carry in your hearts can bring you some peace.

Carol and Pat Finn

PATRICK FINN - July 20, 2021 at 08:49 AM

DP

“ Liz, we are so saddened to learn of your Mom's home going to be with Jesus. Having just lost my Mom, I understand the grief you now feel. Praying for your family , asking God to comfort you as only He can do. Sincerely, Dianne and Glen Pinkston

Dianne Pinkston - July 18, 2021 at 11:28 PM

JW

“ Andrea you wore many Hats Wife Mom Grandma Friend. You made our friendship very special no matter how busy you were always reaching out to help with your many talents of planning events baking all done with a smile you touched so many people with your kindness ❤️

Joan Wood - July 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM

PD

“ Andrea, by far was a extremely givi g,and loving woman, Happy memories,and laughs with Andrea, may you rest in peace lovely lady❤️

Patricia Davis - July 18, 2021 at 09:49 AM

EL

“ I met Andrea and Jim through my sister Arlene and husband Ron who were life long friends. Andrea was a lovely woman who was so gracious to everyone she met. She touched the hearts and lives of all who knew her. She will be missed by all her family and friends. God has a new angel.
Eileen Langdell

Eileen Langdell - July 17, 2021 at 07:30 PM