



Virginia Elliott Reitano

April 27, 1936 - May 26, 2018

Virginia Elliott Reitano, aged 82, died May 26, 2018 in Pawley's Island, South Carolina. Virginia was a devoted wife for 60 years to Arthur Reitano and a revered mother and grandmother.

Virginia was born April 27, 1936 in the Bronx in New York City, NY. She lived her life with the same intelligence and grace shown to her by her extraordinary parents, Paul and Katherine Alfieri. Paul was a Combat Intelligence Officer during World War II in Italy, and was awarded the Legion of Merit Award for his outstanding service and successful reconnaissance missions. Virginia and her brother, Paul, lived with their parents during this time in Genoa while she also attended boarding school at Marymount in Rome. Her mother Katherine was her husband's equally formidable partner, an educated woman defying odds to secure work for herself at a time when women weren't allowed to work.

Virginia studied at Aquinas High School in the Bronx, where she was Valedictorian, Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY, and Hunter College, NY where she graduated in 1957.

A tireless worker and deeply spiritual person, Virginia's charity knew no boundaries. For decades, she devoted her time, energy and empathy in works that served her family, community and church. She worked for 18 years as a

school librarian. She volunteered at Birthright in Georgetown, SC and was an active parishioner at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. Never one to be idle, Virginia was an active member at Heritage Plantation where she loved playing Bridge with friends, read voraciously and solved crosswords masterfully. Her calm composure, sharp wit and unlimited knowledge was a peaceful presence in everyone's lives and she will be a tremendous loss to so many.

Virginia is survived by her adoring husband, Arthur, with whom she shared a full, vibrant life and family, and their adventures and residences spanned from the Bronx, to Brewster, NY, to Roswell, GA, to St. Petersburg, FL, to Cary, IL, and to Pawley's Island, SC. She is also survived by her children, Arthur Reitano, Jr., of Chicago, IL, Mary Jacobellis and her husband, Jim, of Fountain Hills, AZ, Suzanne Burchill and her husband Mark, of Southport, CT, Paul Reitano and his partner Cheryl Christie, of Georgetown, SC, and John Reitano and his wife Melissa, of San Rafael, CA; and by her grandchildren, Kathryn and Josee Jacobellis, Blake and Graham Burchill, and Lucy and George Reitano. She is predeceased by her brother, Paul Alfieri, and by her grandson, Jack Dunn Reitano.

A perpetual teacher and scholar, Virginia wrote often to her family and friends, sharing with them thoughts, articles, quotes and passages that might brighten their day or lift them up when needed. As she wrote recently in her own diary, "The past is memory and the future is a dream. All we truly possess is the moment. That should be our passion, our obsession and our treasure."

A celebration of Virginia's life will take place on August 1, 2018 at 10am at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church in Pawley's Island, SC. She will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Birthright of Georgetown: P.O. Box 3455, Pawley's Island, SC 29585.

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Jennifer Barbarone lit a candle in memory of Virginia Elliott Reitano



Jennifer Barbarone - February 25, 2020 at 06:48 PM



Virginia had an incredible impact on my life and I think of her and her family often. This obituary was very well written. I could picture her while reading it. I remember quite a few laughs and it was an honor to know her and work with her.

Jennifer Barbarone - February 25, 2020 at 06:50 PM



“ We will always hold a special place in our hearts for Virginia Reitano, always known to us as "Ginny". She will be missed immensely. A kind and gracious woman, and the love of her husband's, Arthur's life.

Love and forever,
Tommy and Mary

thomas - June 13, 2018 at 08:52 PM

TK

“ I am heavy at heart for losing a dear friend and a pseudo sister! It seems as though it was just yesterday that we talked on the phone. I know she is with God and that she has earned her 'wings'! We spent many wonderful visits with her and Art. Thank you Art for introducing us to you Ginny.. We enjoyed every minute and will always hold her in my heart!

Terri Kasperski - June 11, 2018 at 11:22 AM

EA

“ I only knew Virginia a little, but she left a great impression--as a woman of great integrity. I remember her as being as quick with a kind smile as with a wise word. Her love of children and devotion to her family was always apparent; I can only imagine how greatly she will be missed by her family. She was an example to us all, and I will keep her in my prayers.

Elaine Appel - June 09, 2018 at 05:47 PM

LW

“ Gin always has a smile for me & my family every time we saw her on Pawleys Island. She was a lovely, kind and generous person. We will miss her dearly. Sending Love & prayers to all the Reitanos.

lynne wallace - June 08, 2018 at 09:12 PM

TT

“ To the Reitano family,

I am so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a truly special lady. The letters she sent my mom meant a lot to her. Losing your mom is one of the hardest things ever. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Tami (Hirsch) Thelen*

Tami Hirsch Thelen - June 08, 2018 at 08:30 AM

MM

“ To the Reitano Family - I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mom, Grandmother and friend. Although I only met her once, I know she was a beautiful woman, inside and out. Her legacy will be in all of you and those who lives she touch. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. May she rest in peace and guide you from above

Michael Morgan - June 08, 2018 at 06:40 AM

SG

“ To the Reitano Family:

*I did not know Virginia well, but when I came to volunteer at Birthright, she embraced me with her love and leadership. Whenever I saw her in the community, she always had a hug and a kind word to say. She will be missed. God speed Virginia.
Suzanne G.*



Suzanne G. - June 06, 2018 at 07:57 AM

ME

“ Dear Art and Family,

Virginia was such an extraordinary woman--so kind, thoughtful, intelligent and hard working With a heavy heart, I will remember all our hours together at Birthright of Georgetown where she volunteered tirelessly and lovingly and where we shared so many happy times. Clients thought so highly of her and asked about her when she was not at the office. . She will be missed beyond what can be expressed in words.

We send our deepest sympathy and prayers.

*Lots of love,
Mary Lou and Al England*

Mary Lou England - June 05, 2018 at 03:47 PM

VJ

*Dear Art and Family
Victor and Jenny Jacobellis are sorry for your loss. Virginia was a special person.*

victor Jacobellis - June 05, 2018 at 05:07 PM

JO

Dear Arthur and family I am deeply sorry for your loss she was a very special lady I'm glad I was able to see both of you not to long ago love you your sister Joann

Joann - June 06, 2018 at 05:17 PM



*Dear Reitano Family,
Too soon departed dear Gin; she will be sadly missed, our retirement years deprived of her joyous, thoughtful and ever timely consideration. She was one in a million and the angels in heaven will benefit from her able assistance. Donal will treasure the childhood memories youthfully shared and we Florida Alfieris rejoice in our association with such a special lady*

Susan Alfieri - June 06, 2018 at 05:29 PM

CB

Dear family. Meeting Virginia for the first time, I loved her. She is my sons mother-in-law and grandmother to Mark and Suzanne's boys Blake and Graham. There was never a better grandmother. We will miss her. Keep watching over us Virginia. Cathy B

cathy Burchill-Block - June 06, 2018 at 07:02 PM

AQ

Dear Art and family, Words cannot express the surprise and sorrow upon learning of Virginia's passing. She was a lovely and giving woman to all who came in contact with her. I especially will miss her visits to Arizona and our time together over the years. Still remember how we met at my daughter's home in Arizona and started talking about our growing up in the Bronx. Then learning we both went to Aquinas HS and that Virginia and Art were friends with my older sister. From there grew a fond and special relationship between us. Sorry to hear of her passing but am sure she is in a far better place. Our love to you Art and her family. Arlene and Ed

Arlene Quinn - June 06, 2018 at 07:38 PM

SJ

*On behalf of the Michael Jacobellis Family, we are so very sorry for your loss. Much love, peace, and strength to your family.
With love, Michael and Sharon Jacobellis.*

Sharon J Jacobellis - June 06, 2018 at 10:26 PM

KL

Dear Art and Family: I am so very sorry for your tragic and sudden loss. I remember Virginia fondly as a kind, intelligent and graceful woman. She is watching over all of you from her new home . . . a place I know she believed in. "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. - Dr. Seuss"

Kathy Jacobellis Lurito - June 07, 2018 at 10:45 AM

DL

Dear Art and family: We are so sorry for losing this wonderful woman oh, too soon! She was so special, so kind and considerate. She always lent a compassionate ear and was such a beautiful example of true faith and love for one another. Our hearts ache with you! Love, Donna and Mike Levesque

donna & mike levesque - June 07, 2018 at 12:04 PM

TB

Dear Art and Family. Paula and I are so very sorry for your loss. Virginia was a special person and will be sorely missed. Wishing all the Reitano's strength at a difficult time.

Thomas Burchill - June 08, 2018 at 02:40 PM

KS

To Artie & Family, We will miss Gin in our lives. She has been a joy at our family reunions for more than 20 years. My mom & dad are with her now. Peace & Love to all, Kathy Wallace Smith

kathy smith - June 08, 2018 at 04:26 PM

PR

Our sincere condolences to the Reitano Family

Pat & Bill Reichling - June 08, 2018 at 10:47 PM