



Carolyn Jean Melia

November 21, 1932 - September 27, 2021

MELIA, Carolyn Jean. Age 88, born November 21, 1932, passed away surrounded by family, at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia on September 27.

Carole was born, the seventh of eight children, to Josephine and Ralph Slater on November 21, 1932, in Dayton, Ohio. She excelled as a student at St. Anthony Catholic School and Julienne Catholic High School in Dayton. Upon graduation, she was employed as Secretary to the President of Rike's Department Store in downtown, Dayton.

Fortunately, she took the city bus to and from work, which led her to meet her future husband on the Ewald Circle bus route. Carole and Paul Melia (deceased) married on April 16, 1955 at St. Anthony Catholic Church and raised four children together in Kettering, Ohio. They were married for sixty-four years. Together, Carole and Paul lived a strong Catholic faith and she devoted much of her energy to her vocation as wife and mother.

She was a natural & gifted cook, enthusiastic about trying new recipes and adding her own twists to them. Many of these recipes became an important part of family celebrations and traditions that continue to be passed along. She kept many traditions from her youth and created new ones for her growing family. She shared her love through making holidays, special occasions and eventually, family reunions, warm and memorable.

Carole was an integral part of Paul's commercial and fine art business, working as partner, art critic and executive assistant. They fully enjoyed their opportunity to work and travel together to many states for portrait artwork commissions. She and Paul also shared their love of travel and exploring across Europe including England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Austria.

In later years, Carole persevered with great inner strength as she experienced increasing health challenges. Upon the death of Paul in 2019, the children honored his wishes that Carole move to Georgia to live near three of their children.

Carole was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; parents, Josephine and Ralph Slater; three sisters, Rita Unverferth, Juanita Dean and Mary Biedenbender; and three brothers, Ralph, Dick and Ray. She is survived by her children; three daughters and their husbands, Terri (Chuck) Hamlin, Lisa (Kyle) Robinson, and Becky (John) Lambert; and a son, Mike, and his wife (Jenifer); a brother and his wife, Joe (Marie); fifteen grandchildren

and three great grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial, 12:00 p.m. Monday, October 11, at St. Albert the Great Church, 3033 Far Hills Avenue, Kettering. The family will receive friends Sunday, October 10, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Westbrook Funeral Home, 5980 Bigger Road, Kettering. Interment beside Paul at Calvary Cemetery in the weeks to follow. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation or the American Heart Association.

Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery

1625 Calvary Drive
Dayton, OH, 45409

Events

OCT **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

10

Westbrock Funeral Home

5980 Bigger Road, Kettering, OH, US, 45440

OCT **Mass of Christian Burial** 12:00PM

11

St. Albert the Great

3033 Far Hills Ave, Kettering, OH, US, 45429

Comments



“ Sharon Melia lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Jean Melia



Sharon Melia - October 11 at 04:19 PM



“ Deborah Melia, Michael and Maud purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carolyn Jean Melia.



Deborah Melia, Michael and Maud - October 08 at 06:15 PM



“ Adoring Heart was purchased for the family of Carolyn Jean Melia.



October 04 at 02:58 PM



“ My favorite memory about Mrs. Melia (I still call her that - some habits are hard to break), is on several occasions throughout the years when I would spend the night with Becky at the Melia house, either on Regent Street or Atherton Road, Becky would get a warning from her parents because we were being too "loud" (imagine that!). Becky would then become even louder! We would end up getting several warnings from her parents by bedtime but they never raised their voices at us. They never seemed mad either. They always had a smile on their faces and showed great patience and kindness to everyone while making their home feel warm and welcoming to all.

I am also very fortunate to have the memory of sharing many meals at the Melia house. Meals around the Melia table were always guaranteed to be a good time with lots of laughter, jokes and Carol's delicious food ONLY AFTER we all held hands and prayed grace first (I love that memory!). She made every occasion special, especially our birthdays (Becky and I are only 3 days apart) and Carol always served one of her famous recipes followed by an ice-cream cake and the singing of the traditional Melia birthday songs.

Carol was a true feminine lady whose meekness and humbleness reflected her deeply religious beliefs. She lead by example and lived a Christian lifestyle that is also reflected in her children and grandchildren, as well as many of the people she knew, including myself.

May you rest in peace Mrs. Melia. You will be greatly missed.

~ Cheryl (Murlin) Eichner

Cheryl Eichner - October 04 at 01:15 PM



“ Cheryl Eichner lit a candle in memory of Carolyn Jean Melia



Cheryl Eichner - October 04 at 11:49 AM



“ I offer my heartfelt sympathy to her dear family and friends at this time of sadness and loss. May our God be with you.

Bessie Smith - October 08 at 05:18 PM