



Teresa Pepe

August 12, 2023

Teresa Pepe passed away on August 12, 2023. She was 92 years old.

Teresa was born on May 27, 1931, in Sant'Arsenio, Italy. She married John Pepe in Italy, and then immediately left for New York where her father had been living and working. She was 17 at the time so was considered an American citizen. John then came over 11 months later. Teresa worked as a seamstress in New York and also learned to swim at the local YMCA.

Swimming was her passion for many years until she was no longer able. She had earned her certification to teach swimming and also had her life saving certification. She was able to swim a mile easily each time she went to the pool, up until her early 80s.

In 1969, Teresa and family which consisted of her husband, daughter, Ann (14 at the time) and son Alex (7 at the time) moved to Pueblo, Colorado for John's career. In 1972, Teresa, John and Alex moved to Denver, Colorado.

In Denver, she continued to be a loving wife and mother as well as a seamstress. She became a widow in March of 1985. That was a hard transition for her with her daughter married and living in Fort Collins and her son living in Austin Texas. She continued with her swimming and biking and keeping in touch with the many friends that she had. She eventually moved to Fort Collins to be closer to her daughter. When her grandson, Ryan Lujan,

was born, she was so happy to be able to care for him during his first year while Ann worked. She always said it was the best time being able to do that. She has 5 grandchildren in all. Cameron Pepe, Carson Pepe and Colton Pepe in Austin, Texas and Ryan Lujan and Sara Lujan in Fort Collins.

She is survived by her two children and their spouses - Ann and Mike Lujan, in Fort Collins, Colorado and Alex and Kara Pepe in Austin, Texas; her 5 grandchildren, her brother, John D'Amato in New York, her niece Marlene Olivier and nephew J. Arsenio D'Amato and many other relatives in the U.S. and Italy.

Teresa led a full and active life spending time with her beloved family and many friends. She liked to cook her Italian specialties which everyone loved when they would come to visit her. Her life was in service to others as she truly loved the people close to her. Her stories and the memories she created will be passed on through her family and friends. We love you and miss you Nonna.

A memorial service celebrating Teresa's life will begin at 4:00 pm Saturday, August 19, 2023, at Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr., Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524. Additional visiting and refreshments will follow her service. The inurnment will be held privately at Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins.

Teresa's family requests that any memorial donations please be sent to Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Pathways had been such a comfort and great assistance in her final days.

Please go to www.goesfuneralcare.com to see Teresa's full obituary and to share condolences and memories with her family.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

1900 West Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521
<http://www.fcgov.com/parks/grandview.php>

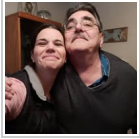
Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 19. 4:00 PM (MT)

Goes Funeral Care & Crematory
3665 Canal Drive
Suite E
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-2221
info@goesfuneralcare.com
<https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Teresa Was Our Neighbor and Friend that we hit it off with right away.. Having grown up in NY as well, and Italian, we had an Immediate Bond.reminding me of my Nana Chiacchiere. We shared stories of our Childhoods and our Love for New York.and FOOD ' She will be missed by all that knew Her. RIP Theresa....
The Chiacchiere Family*

Vinny Chiachiere - August 19, 2023 at 02:04 PM

“Teresa Pepe was a most remarkable person with strong values and a loving heart. She had a strong curiosity about every subject. She made and kept friends easily. Her thick accent caused people to intently listen to her and she loved tell stories of her family, Italy, and home repair.

Teresa grew up under the regime of Benito Mussolini and was made to march in her school uniform every Saturday in support of the “fascista.” Her family fled to the “mountain” when the Germans rolled into her town. She had a small-town Italian upbringing with many fruit trees and a large garden. Her father called them rich because they had a water well.

She arrived in America with her mother by ship in 1949 and recalls the beauty of seeing the statue of liberty coming into view. She was processed through Ellis Island and recalled the smell of the confiscated olive oil that the guards smashed as contraband. She taught herself English by listening to the radio and reading newspapers. Seeing a help wanted sign she landed her first paying job in a clothing factory and learned all facets of becoming a seamstress.

She valued exercise and learned to swim at the YMCA, a skill she used most every day. After the frustration of missing a bus, she took driving lessons and secured her license She helped her husband pass and then with the help of her daughter learned how to manage her finances. She then sold her Lakewood house and relocated to Fort Collins where she lovingly looked after her grandchildren.

Teresa Pepe is one of the most unforgettable characters I have had the pleasure of loving. Her sharp inquisitive mind and large heart allowed for lively conversation and always an “I Love You” at parting. Teresa was never guarded with her viewpoint. She liked debate and was open to change if she saw reasoning in the argument.

Teresa has changed my life and made it better. She offered a different perspective to almost every topic, was a tireless defender of women’s rights, and was a role model for adapting to the change’s life can bring. She is truly unforgettable.

Sue Bartlett - August 17, 2023 at 08:40 AM