



Irene M. Tallerico

March 20, 1926 - March 10, 2022

Irene Tallerico, beloved wife of Joseph (deceased), passed away peacefully on March 10, 2022 at her apartment in Sterling Heights, Michigan, after a long bout with lymphoma. She was 95 years old — 10 days short of 96 — and had lived a very full life. She is survived by her children Tom (Tim) and Lori Wilhelm (Mark), her grandchildren, Brian Tallerico (Lauren), Anne Perry (Ian), Andrew Wilhelm (Sarah) and Kristyn Wilhelm, and her great-grandchildren, Colten (Monica), Oliver, Lucas, Charlotte, Miles, Oscar, Noah, and Ginny. Her daughter, Kathryn (Norm), died of pancreatic cancer several years ago.

Irene was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 20, 1926, to John and Clara Srock. She was the oldest of 5 children, John (deceased), Mary Ann (deceased), Tom (deceased), and Shirley. She had to leave school early to manage the household after her mother died in childbirth. Despite this, she was as aware of the world as any college graduate.

Irene met Joe not long before he shipped off to Europe, D-Day and, eventually, V-E Day. They married shortly after Joe returned and Tom followed 11 months later.

Irene was a great bowler. She maintained a high average on various league teams over the years — using a 16 pound (“men’s”) ball. She also dabbled in other sports and games, including bridge and golf.

Most of all, however, she loved crosswords.

Irene had a remarkable recall of names and places. She could easily list the 7 or 8 principal actors or actresses in many movies, particularly older ones, and also remembered the names of virtually (maybe all?) of the children and grandchildren of all her siblings and Joe's siblings and the parents and siblings of all of her children and grandchildren — and all of these people's spouses. She had a similar recall of birthdays and other important events.

This ability was a direct result of her interest in people and, especially, family. Indeed, unbeknownst to her children, she kept a notebook of "Favorite Sayings!" One of those sayings is: "The most important things in your home are people."

This trait lasted right until her death. She consistently would ask about so-and-so's husband, wife, father, mother or child, asking, by name, how they were doing.

Irene was a great example to her grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. For example, Kristyn, wrote this about Irene two years back:

"1926. Calvin Coolidge was President. Winnie-the-Pooh (the book) was published. Route 66 was created. But, most importantly, this beautiful, strong, fierce lady was born. If you did the math, that same lady is now 93 and that is the coolest thing to me. I like bragging that she is 93 (and my grandpa was 95 when he recently passed) and they were married for 73 (almost 74) years! Simply amazing. I am beyond lucky to have the family I have and to call myself Irene Tallerico's granddaughter!"

And Brian just wrote:

"My grandmother passed away last week at almost 96. She lived a full, wonderful life, surrounded by family who loved her. She inspired everyone she knew with her sharp wit and incredible confidence. I know how incredibly lucky I am that all three of my children got to

know her, but it still never feels like enough. I will miss her so.”
We all will.

In lieu of flowers family would appreciate donations to:

American Cancer Society

Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Previous Events

Instate

MAR 19. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church
38750 Ryan Rd
Sterling Heights, MI

Mass of the Resurrection

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church
38750 Ryan Rd
Sterling Heights, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Irene M. Tallerico

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ Irene M. Tallerico

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ Coastal Carolina Softball purchased the Basket o
f Memories for the family of Irene M. Tallerico.



Coastal Carolina Softball - March 16, 2022 at 02:58 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the
family of Irene M. Tallerico.



March 15, 2022 at 08:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Irene M. Tallerico.



March 15, 2022 at 01:19 PM