

Vincenzina "Vivian" Walters

January 17, 1937 ~ February 8, 2022

Vincenzina "Vivian" Antonietta Anna DeAngelis Walters
“Grazie, Mamma, per tutto quello che hai fatto per noi.”
(“Thank you, Mom, for all that you did for us.”)

On February 8, 2022, we sadly said goodbye to a beautiful wife, loving mother, talented artisan, fabulous cook, and all-around wonderful person, Vincenzina DeAngelis Walters.

Born January 17, 1937 in the small village of San Pio, Fontecchio, in the Province of L’Aquila,Italy. Vincenzina was the eldest of three children. She spent her childhood similarly to many young girls of the region and time, helping with farm chores, going to school, and learning needlework, cooking, and housekeeping from her hardworking mother.

Vincenzina’s gift for languages was evident at an early age, and unlike most of her classmates, she received introductory tutoring in the English language. Though only 14 years old at the time, it was with this skill that she served as the family interpreter when she and her mother, younger brother and sister immigrated to the United States and settled in Portland, Oregon. They were later were joined by their father, who had been working in South America in order to finance the family’s immigration to America.

As a member of the International Students Club, Vincenzina studied and became fluent in 3 languages, graduating from Cleveland High School in Portland. She worked as a department store elevator operator, and then sales clerk, though ultimately finding her calling as an award-winning ballroom dance instructor with Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Portland. There she met her future husband, Bob Walters, who, with a friend, thought that taking dance lessons would be a nice way to meet young women. However, it was Bob who was swept off his feet; he and Vincenzina were married on August 15, 1959, and a year later their first daughter arrived.

Vincenzina devoted herself to motherhood until eventually all five of her children were raised. Throughout the many and frequent relocations that Bob’s career presented the young family, Vincenzina learned to navigate every new town and neighborhood, while using her many talents to make each new house into a home and haven for her family. She believed it important to preserve her Italian culture, as she passed down Italian traditions, nourished her family with love and delicious, nutritious meals (always made from scratch), and taught by example how to be kind, generous and self-sufficient.

Once her children were grown, Vincenzina reinvented herself as an entrepreneur and opened “Yarns Unique” — a specialty yarn boutique, where she sold elegant and unique yarns, taught knitting and other needlework, and offered homemade biscotti and coffee to her many clients. She found great purpose and enjoyment in creating a community of knitters that included designing and executing intricate patterns and helping her customers knit their

own finely crafted garments, and entering her creations into local fashion and art shows. In addition to her textile expertise, Vincenzina's creativity poured over into making a variety of authentic homemade pastas and sauces, canning countless jars of produce and jams, creating stunning floral arrangements, and embroidering elaborate cut-work tablecloths as gifts for her family, that are now cherished heirlooms.

As Bob and Vivian entered into retirement, they purchased a winter getaway home in Mesquite, Nevada. The surrounding mountains, and warm, sunny days, reminded her of her home in Italy, and she and Bob enjoyed many seasons there while also maintaining a residence in Utah near their children and grandchildren. "Nonna" shared a deep love and connection with each of her four beautiful granddaughters, and derived immense happiness and joy teaching them about their Italian heritage and culture, how to make homemade pasta, and introducing them to needle arts.

Throughout her life, Vincenzina demonstrated a unique and resilient strength of character, kindness of heart, and generosity of spirit; all part of her legacy that will now live on through her family. She will be forever missed, though never forgotten. "Ti vogliamo bene." ("We love you").

Vincenzina is survived by her husband, Bobbie Lee Walters; children: Natalie (Bryan) Ream, Teresa (Glen) Larsen, Mark Walters, Loretta (John) Huston, son-in-law John Case; granddaughters: Mackenzie Ream, Hanna Larsen, Alexa Ream, Claire (Fernando) Escovar; sister Fulvia (David) Anderson, and sister-in-law Nancy DeAngelis. She was preceded in death by her daughter Elaine Case, parents, Ermando and Natalina (Saione) DeAngelis, brother Gino DeAngelis, and sister Flavia DeAngelis.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 21, 2021 at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, UT. Interment at the Hardy Way Cemetery in Mesquite, Nevada on February 22, 2022.

To watch the recorded services, please click on the blue "Watch Services" button to the right of her picture.