



Constance K. Johnson

February 17, 2021

Constance Katherine Johnson was called home on 2/17/2021. Connie was born February 1937 in Newark, NJ, daughter of the late Lillian (Zarra) and Edward Cerato.

Connie was a proud graduate of St. Vincent Academy Grammar and High Schools (with honors) in Newark. She furthered her education at the Cittone Business Institute and Brookdale Community College, taking night classes while working full-time. Her career in business encompassed 25+ years. She retired in 2002, as Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Basic Research at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, PA, having relocated from NJ in 1989.

Connie is survived by her devoted husband Bob, five children and their spouses Dr. Edward Manzella (Jodi), Dr. Victor Manzella (Genny), Luisa Chase (Rick), Liliana Decker (Dave), Dr. John Manzella, Jr, step-sons Kevin (Rosanne), David, and Robert (Kathy) and her extended family (formed by love) Dr. Andrew Wakstein (Peg). Connie's favorite role was "Grammy" to her 15 grandchildren; Nichole (Matt), John, Helena (Dan), Marisa (Kirk), Tyler, Danny, Derick, Edward, Katherine, Lili, David, Moira, Aidan, Victor and Michael and six great-grandchildren: Madelyn, Alexandra, Sean, Grayson, Alessandro and Caroline.

Whether a sporting event, dance recital or school activity, she was always

there for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She delighted in introducing her “girls,” (three generations) to Broadway, filling plastic eggs for the family “annual” Easter egg hunt, cleaning crabs for their Summer spaghetti crab fest; doing for her family is what made her happiest.

Connie enjoyed writing, many years ago she was editor of her high school newspaper. For her 50th Class reunion, she updated the 1954 yearbook; this enabled her to renew many old friendships. She always wanted to write a book. Christmas 2009 her grandchildren gave her that book to write: “Grandparent’s Legacy.” The book, completed after five years, encompassed text and pictures from her grandparents forward to the birth of her first great-grandson; everyone was given a copy Christmas Eve 2014.

Bob and Connie made many trips to Disney World with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. These trips were always followed by a letter recapping each day; the trip would never be forgotten. For her 75th birthday, she chose a trip to Disney World with 17 family members. One of her greatest joys in life was making memories that would last a lifetime, and that she did!

Connie and Bob made several trips to Europe and the Caribbean; Connie especially enjoyed their cruises and the summer vacations at Cape May. A special trip was taken for their 25th anniversary. They rode the Rocky Mountaineer train across Canada and a cruise to Alaska; that was special. She enjoyed most the trips to the Shrines at Lourdes in France, Medjugorje in Bosnia (where she and Bob climbed 3,000 feet to the top of Cross Mountain), and Fatima in Portugal. She was especially devoted to the Blessed Mother; her Rosary Beads were never out of reach. Connie was always asked for novenas, especially to St. Gerard Majella, and she prayed many; she was also able to visit his shrine in Mater Domini, Italy. With the help of this young

Italian saint, several novenas were successful; those familiar with St. Gerard will understand.

Connie graciously hosted many parties for family and friends; however, her favorite was the seven fishes Christmas Eve vigil for family and dearest friends. Her Italian heritage was important to her; she was so proud to be of Italian descent.

She strived to make every occasion special, not only for her family, but for all who were a part of her life. She treasured the friendships that were made along all the paths that life took her; one thing for sure, her heart was an open book. Her sense of humor and life's stories will not be forgotten and neither will she. Faith, family, and friendships were the foundation of Connie's life; nothing mattered more. Her greatest blessing was being surrounded by those closest to her heart.

Connie was a parishioner of St. Thomas More Church in Allentown. Prior to residing in Macungie, she was a daily Mass communicant at Mary Mother of the Redeemer Parish in North Wales, a Eucharistic Minister, a CCD teacher and served in several other parish ministries. She was a Eucharistic Apostle of the Divine Mercy, a Marian Helper, a graduate of the Church Ministry Institute of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and a Dominican Associate with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de Ricci.

Family and friends are invited to attend her viewing at the J. S. Burkholder Funeral Home, 1601 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown from 6-8 P.M. on Monday, February 22, 2021 and on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 9:30-10:30 A.M. Friends are invited to meet at the Church and attend her Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1040 Flexer Avenue, Allentown. To livestream the funeral mass please visit: www.stmchurchallentown.org, look for and click on the youtube link, under the mass

schedule. Interment will take place at St. John Neuman Cemetery in Chalfont, PA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the continued care of Grammy's very special Lili. Checks made payable to: Liliana Decker c/o J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, 1601 Hamilton St. Allentown, PA 18102.

Cemetery Details

St. John Neumann Catholic Cemetery

3797 County Line Road
Chalfont, PA 18914

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Calling Hours

FEB **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

Tribute Wall

DD

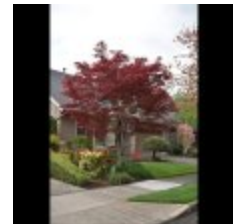
“ *Dave Decker lit a candle in memory of Constance K. Johnson*



Dave Decker - February 24, 2021 at 04:36 PM



“ *Red Leaf Japanese Maple was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



February 23, 2021 at 06:19 AM

YF

“ *Your Local DEWALT Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



Your Local DEWALT Family - February 22, 2021 at 04:02 PM

DH

“ *I remember meeting you for the first time and going to your home for a Bible Study it was a great night full prayer and love. The world was better place because of you and all your prayers for people you did and didn't know. An Angel on earth and now in heaven . Will remember you always and your family in my prayers. Love Donna*

donna hogan - February 22, 2021 at 11:02 AM

LM

“ *Love, The Quinns, Kevin, Cara, Hunter, Madeline purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



Love, The Quinns, Kevin, Cara, Hunter, Madeline - February 22, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



February 22, 2021 at 08:04 AM

LD

“ *Liliana Manzella Decker lit a candle in memory of Constance K. Johnson*



Liliana Manzella Decker - February 22, 2021 at 12:05 AM

LD

“ How do you share a memory where there are so many? My Mom taught me about the gift of family, faith and true love. She is the foundation for who I am today, mother, wife, sister, aunt and friend. My greatest champion and best friend. My Mom will always be with watching over my family, our family. My husband Dave and children Danny, Lili and David have a Guardian Angel now, Connie will always be remembered for her kindness, generosity and her faith. I love you Mom, miss you, thank you for EVERYTHING and will pray 🙏 with you in my heart each and everyday! Rest In Peace Mama ❤️

Liliana Manzella Decker - February 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Liliana Manzella Decker lit a candle in memory of Constance K. Johnson



Liliana Manzella Decker - February 21, 2021 at 11:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.



February 21, 2021 at 07:43 PM

KS

“ Sending my condolences on the passing of your wonderful wife, mother, (great) grandmother, friend, and my dear friend, Mrs. Johnson (Connie). My mother, Wanda (Kratson) Polansky, and Connie were high school friends and kept in touch through the years. Connie and I built a cherished friendship after my Mom passed in 2007. She told me some of the fun that they all had, and she was always interested to hear what was going on in my family, and always asked about my husband and children. She was so thoughtful to give me a few photos of my Mom and their fun group of girls through the years. I am so happy that I had the chance to speak to her on February 6 this year after sending her happy birthday wishes on February 3. She wrote to me about her fall on her birthday. She didn't dwell on it, she just found the humor 'As I always do, I tripped. Bob says I'll never get hit by an airplane.' We were talking of the hopes of planning our next lunch once things get back to 'normal'. She always spoke so highly of her family, and she included me on the email prayer chains when someone needed some extra prayers. She touched the lives of so many and she will be truly missed by so many. The obituary words are beautiful, as well as the love that she shared, and her amazing life story. May the many happy memories comfort you and all of us. With love and deepest sympathy, Kathy (Polansky) Schiffer & family



Kathleen Schiffer - February 21, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.



February 20, 2021 at 11:30 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



February 20, 2021 at 10:22 PM



“ *Judith M. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Constance K. Johnson.*



Judith M. - February 20, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *I lost my best friend, my confidant, and the woman I called my sister since we were both 14 years old. We never had an unkind word between us. We shared joys and tears, and were always there for one another.*

Just two years ago we had such a great visit . We laughed, we cried and we reminisced about our children, our parents and all the fun we had as kids. We hugged and caught up on each other's life . Neither of us knew that it would be the last time we would see each other again. I cherish that visit and all the calls checking up on each other in between. I am heartbroken. I am praying for her beloved husband , children and grandchildren. My prayer is that we all can be at peace knowing she is resting with God . Connie, my dear sister friend I say your name and look forward to the day we see each other again in the resurrection. All My Love, Rita Tauriello Codella

Rita Codella - February 19, 2021 at 11:12 PM

LD

*Thank you Rita, she loved you so and always some so highly of you!
Love, Lynn*

Liliana Manzella Decker - February 20, 2021 at 03:25 PM

RC

“ Connie was a dear and treasured friend for so many years. I cannot believe she is no longer with us. We have shared so many laughs over the years and attended so many gatherings and events together and my entire family considered her as family. We all loved her dearly. It brings me peace to know that she is with God. I lost my Mom just a week ago so I know they are both with the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love to all.

Robin and Dwight Carter

Robin Carter - February 19, 2021 at 07:52 PM

EM

Thank you Robin. My Mom always spoke of you and Dwight as though you were family. My condolences on the loss of your Mother. They are both with the Lord they loved and served tirelessly. Connie's son Edward.

Edward Manzella - February 19, 2021 at 08:11 PM

LD

I just spoke to my Mom recently about you Robin, your Mom and family. She asked me to pray for you all as I will continue to do so. My deepest condolences on the loss of your Mom. My Mom was enriched to have you in her life. Thank you for being such a wonderful friend to her. Yes they are both home in the comfort of the Lord. Connie's daughter Lynn

Liliana Manzella Decker - February 20, 2021 at 08:14 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.



February 19, 2021 at 07:13 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.



February 19, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Constance K. Johnson.



February 18, 2021 at 04:05 PM