



Anna Theodora McConnell

May 20, 1931 - February 12, 2025

Anna Theodora McConnell (née DiGioacchino) passed away on February 12, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones in Manassas, Virginia, at the age of 93. She was born in Penns Grove, New Jersey, in 1931 to Rocco and Aminta DiGioacchino. Anna was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, and sister.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James A. McConnell, and her son, James P. McConnell. In addition to her parents, she was also predeceased by her brother, Rocco, and her sisters, Josephine and Lisabetta.

Anna was devoted to her family. She opened her home for holidays, family celebrations, and to care for loved ones in times of need. Her love and support were always felt, and she took great pride in being there for her family through both joyous and difficult times. Her exceptional cooking was a hallmark of her hospitality. She preserved traditional Italian family recipes, especially during the holidays. Family cherished her La Vigilia on Christmas Eve, her lamb spitzada at Easter, and her signature dish – gnocchi; as well as her desserts, including Italian holiday cookies, Easter bread, and Italian rum cake.

Anna spent most of her life in Penns Grove and Pennsville, New Jersey, where she worked alongside her parents at their restaurants, The Family Inn

in Penns Grove and The Lodi Hotel in Atlantic City until their retirement. She earned a secretarial degree and worked for over 20 years as an admitting clerk at several hospitals in Wilmington, Delaware, retiring in 1993 from Christiana Medical Center.

After her husband's passing in 2012, Anna moved to Manassas, Virginia, to be closer to her daughter, Sheila. She quickly embraced her new home, cherishing time with family, making new friends, and becoming a member of the local community.

Anna is survived by her daughters: Louise Bailey and her husband, Robert; Sheila McConnell and her husband, Gary Whalen; and Maureen McConnell and her wife, Linda Eastburn. She was a devoted grandmother to Teresa, Robert (Ludmila), and Alexis Bailey and a proud great-grandmother to Mark Gregory. She is also survived by her sisters, Madeline O'Connor and Theresa Panunto.

A catholic mass will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 11:00 AM at All Saints Church on 9300 Stonewall Road, in Manassas, Virginia, 20110. A viewing will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 prior to the mass at Pierce Funeral Home at 9609 Center St., Manassas, Virginia 20110. A viewing and prayer service will also be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Doherty Funeral Home, 3200 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Interment will follow at All Saints Cemetery, 6001 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington, DE 19808.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd
Manassas, VA 20110-2566
(703) 368-4500

Visitation

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Doherty Funeral Home, Inc.
3200 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Prayer service

FEB 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Doherty Funeral Home, Inc.
3200 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Burial

FEB 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

ALL SAINTS CEMETERY
6001 Kirkwood Hwy.
Wilmington, DE 19808

Tribute Wall



“ PCI family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anna Theodora McConnell.

PCI family - February 24, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ PCI family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Anna Theodora McConnell.



PCI family - February 24, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anna Theodora McConnell.



February 22, 2025 at 11:03 AM

PS

“ Dear Sheila, Gary and to the entire McConnell family:
We in the Mine Safety and Health Administration are so sorry about your loss, and send our deepest condolences from the employees who knew and loved Sheila. I, personally, knew your dearest Mother, and remember fondly the time I wrote her a letter after your brother’s death. I remember that I was so careful as I was writing her, because she reminded me so much of my own dear Mother. She was so easy to talk to, and one could feel her compassion for people—I feel that I am a better person by having known your mother. While you will be going through difficult times in the near term, please know that those many wonderful memories of your mother (as wonderfully expressed in the obituary), and God’s help will give you peace and guide you through this difficult period.
With love and blessings,
Pat (and Donald) Silvey, and your MSHA Family

Patricia Silvey - February 20, 2025 at 01:56 PM

JG

“ Jill Block and Sue Gruskiewicz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anna Theodora McConnell.

Jill Block and Sue Gruskiewicz - February 20, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JG

“ Jill Block and Sue Gruskiewicz purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Anna Theodora McConnell.



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