



## Josephine C. Perkins

January 30, 1926 - August 13, 2020

Josephine Carol Perkins passed away peacefully at her home in the loving care of her family at the age of 94. Josephine was a devoted wife of 69 years to John Marshall Perkins, Jr., and a loving mother of seven children, five boys, John, Jerry, Jeff, Jim, and Joe, and two girls, Josie, and Janet.

Born in Philadelphia, Josephine started life in a large Italian family as the seventh child of Fortunato and Josephine Labate. As the youngest, Josephine received tender care from her three sisters, Francis, Rose, and Carmela, and the protection of her three brothers, Charles, Angelo, and Larry.

Josephine fell in love with her husband, John, a submariner, towards the end of World War II, and they quickly married and started their family, giving every child a name that started with the letter J. After several years in Florida, and New Jersey, Josephine and John settled in northern Virginia, where she passed on August 13, 2020.

Josephine was a strong, compassionate, tenacious, and feisty woman with a green thumb, who stood up for herself and loved to laugh and banter with people on current events and topics. Once a tradesman raided Josephine's garden, taking vegetables without permission. Seeing this, she confronted the tradesmen and he gave back the vegetables. After recovering the vegetables, Josephine quickly prepared a bag of vegetables and other food items and

gave them to the tradesman.

Josephine loved entertaining people and was the perfect hostess during parties, when people would visit, and family get-togethers. Anytime family and friends visited they could not leave before she would offer them something to eat, drink, and a topic for conversation and debate, e.g., family, politics, or current events.

Josephine is survived by her seven children and their spouses, John and Faith Perkins, III, Jerrold and Gail Perkins, Jeffrey Perkins, James and Jermaine Perkins, Josephine and Robert Yentes, Joseph and Elizabeth Perkins, and Janet and Jeff Boyd; 17 grandchildren and their spouses, Sherry and Gary Brooks, John Perkins, IV and Jennifer Hess, Michael Perkins, Kristen and Karo Isajan, Lindsey and Louis Diesel, Abigail and Brandon Hawm, Marshall Perkins, David Perkins, Matthew Perkins, Kelii Perkins, John Perkins, Julia-Marie Perkins, Jade-Michelle Perkins, Josephine Sara Yentes, Richard Yentes, Caroline Perkins, and Zachary Perkins; and five great-grandchildren, Tai Bowler, Josephine Ehredt, Lily Perkins, Brenna Brooks, and Colby Brooks.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, 10 September 2020, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA. A Requiem Mass will be held on Friday, 11 September 2020, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Saint Michael's Catholic Church, located at 7401 St. Michael's Lane, Annandale, VA. (<https://stmichaelannandale.org/>). Following the church service, there will be a reception for Josephine at her home in Annandale, VA. The funeral will be at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) on Monday, 14 September 2020, from 10:00 AM. The funeral is limited to 50 people due to ANC restrictions. If you would like to attend the funeral, please contact John M. Perkins, III.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society (<https://www.cancer.org>), or the Top Gun Fighter Foundation, a charity to help veterans with emotional pain (<https://topgunfighterfoundation.org/>).

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211  
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **10**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **11**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael's Catholic Church  
7401 St. Michael's Lane  
Annandale, VA 22003

# Tribute Wall

“ If you reflect on Mom’s 94 years, it was a wonderful and blessed life. In 1926, Josephine Carol Perkins was born to Josephine and Fortunato Labate. She was the youngest of 7 children and had 3 sisters and 3 brothers. Frances, Rose, Carmella and Charley, Angelo and Larry. Carmella being the key to Mom meeting Dad. But we will get to that in a moment.

Growing up in a large Italian household, Mom was all about family. Family was who she was, it defined her, and it was what she lived for. Some would say her family was her greatest accomplishment. She was in her element when she was around family and when she met my father, John M. Perkins, Jr., Jack to Mom, she had the opportunity to start one of her own.

Mom met Dad on a blind date that Aunt Carr had arranged. Aunt Carr’s date for that evening, had a friend and that friend was my Dad. My father once said about my mother, and he said this when he was in his 90s, “I loved her since the moment I saw her.” The rest was history.

They married in 1946 and soon thereafter had their first child, my oldest brother, John. Mom was in labor 72 hours with John and as the story goes, said, “never again”. Well, 6 children later over the course of 15 years, and the Perkins family was well on its way. Mom’s clan includes an additional 17 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

You could describe Mom as a vibrant and beautiful woman who had amazing resilience. She was deeply passionate, especially when it came to her kids and Dad. She stuck up for us, gave us confidence, was our voice when we needed extra support, and taught us important, but simple values like doing the right thing, and respecting your elders. She and Dad were a team and raised the family in unison, step by step, together. They always backed each other and presented a united front, much to our dismay, especially if you were in trouble and trying to get out of it.

*Mom was funny and had a lively personality. She loved to engage in friendly banter with family and friends. It was fun to her. Many times, if she thought she won or became frustrated, she would end the discussion by telling you where to go... diplomatically of course. If you had not seen Mom recently, you knew you were home if you could get her to that point.*

*My mother was courageous and not afraid to speak her mind or give her opinion. When visiting our Aunts, we loved sitting at the kitchen table listening to Mom and her sisters catch up. It is a great memory. And when the sisters played pinochle, watch out. You did not want to get in the middle of that!*

*Mom had exceptional communication skills especially when it came to calling one of her children. She would run through the entire list of 7 names and when that was not successful, she would typically end by saying, "You know who you are, get over here." All joking aside, Mom was a very selfless person. She always put others before herself and she was strong and fair.*

*Tradition and cooking for her family were particularly important to Mom. On the days when Mom cooked, which was pretty much every day, upon entering our house, you could smell the wonderful aromas of fresh bread baking in the oven, pasta, meatballs, and tomato gravy, not sauce, simmering on the stove.*

*There were monthly birthday celebrations and every Christmas Holiday, Mom would set the table for dinner with all the china and good silverware and everyone in the family would come together to enjoy the 5-course meal, sometimes as many as 35 to 40 relatives. We talked, shared stories, laughed and just enjoyed being together. As the family grew, we had to add a few more tables, many more plates and silverware, since it was important that everyone got a seat. The goal was always to keep the family together. These traditions lasted over 40 years and bring back incredibly happy memories.*

*We will miss you each and everyday Mom and are thankful to have your legacy live on in all of us.*

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**Jeff** - September 10, 2020 at 12:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Josephine C. Perkins.*



September 03, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Josephine C. Perkins.*



September 03, 2020 at 12:26 PM