



Phyllis Donaldda Kowalewski

October 24, 1942 - April 29, 2016

Phyllis Donaldda Kowalewski, age 73 of Manassas, VA passed away on Friday, April 29, 2016 after a courageous battle with Frontotemporal Disease.

She was born on October 24, 1942 in Pittsburgh, PA where she was a graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School. She attended the South Side Hospital School of Nursing where she earned her LPN. She married the love of her life, Stephen J. Kowalewski on July 28, 1962. The two traveled extensively overseas for the next 17 years. Phyllis had a great love for her children, grandchildren, going to the beach, birdwatching, cooking, and most of all reading. She will be remembered for her love of yellow roses, hummingbirds, making Christmas cookies, NASCAR racing, the Pittsburgh Steelers and visiting wineries.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Phyllis Russell of Pittsburgh, PA and a sister Barbara Bohan of Pittston, PA.

Survived by her loving husband Stephen J. Kowalewski of Manassas, VA and her children Stefan Kowalewski and wife Michelle of Youngsville, NC, Leon Kowalewski and wife Kimberly of Brentsville, VA, Mark Kowalewski, daughter-in-law Keta Kowalewski of Manassas, VA and Kathleen Paiva and husband George of Sparks, NV; one sister Joanne Dunn and husband Russ of Pittsburgh, PA; 13 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and one on the way

and by many in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews and the many she “adopted” into her family.

The family will receive friends at Pierce Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 2-4 PM at which time a Celebration of Life Service will be held at 4:00 PM. Interment will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations be made to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration at www.theaftd.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/electronically.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

MAY 7. 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
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Tribute Wall



“ Mr. K, Steve, Leon, Mark, Katy and your families, I was so saddened to hear of the loss of Mrs. K. She was such a sweet lady. She always treated me like another one of the Kowalewski gang. I fondly remember pizza night at your house. She could do some magic with a box of chef-boyardee. Those pizzas rocked. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you this week. Mark Spangler

Mark Spangler - May 07, 2016 at 08:39 AM



“ The entire team and Board of Directors for Discover Prince William & Manassas sends our heartfelt condolences to Mark and Family on your loss. If Mrs. Kowalewski was anything like Mark, than she was a strong, determined, generous and caring person. May the memories of the life you shared together with her ease your pain as you lay her to rest.

Discover Prince William & Manassas - May 06, 2016 at 04:25 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Donalda Kowalewski.



May 06, 2016 at 03:10 PM

HM

“ *Mr. K, Katy, Mark, Leon, and Steve:*

*I'm heartbroken for you all as you mourn the loss of your wife and mom. I am so grateful for all she taught me during the time I spent at your house while growing up, both directly and by her example. I will remember Mrs. K for her warmth, kindness, and zest for life; her incredible hospitality, impeccable holiday decorations, and fantastic cooking; and especially for how much she loved each and every one of you. (Even when Mark and Leon made that difficult!) I know my sisters and my Dad join with me in sharing your grief and wishing you comfort and peace in the days ahead. All my love,
Heather Maples*

Heather Maples - May 05, 2016 at 12:45 PM

JP

“ *I didn't get a chance to know her before her disease hit, but I watched with great admiration the love you had for her and the sweet way in which you all cared for her. May God comfort you all at this time of loss*

Joyce Pieritz - May 05, 2016 at 11:17 AM

RS

“ *Richard Manson And Debbie Sabean lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Donalda Kowalewski*



Richard Manson and Debbie Sabean - May 04, 2016 at 10:05 AM

MA

“ *Our hearts are filled with sadness but our memories are filled with smiles. I have many memories of Rich and I visiting with Steve and Donnie and meeting up with them at Virginia wineries. After Rich passed away, they were both so kind to make Pat feel like family, and shared many good times with us at Virginia wineries. We will miss Donnie and her ever present smile. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Steve and all of their family and friends. Love, Pat and Mary Ann*

Mary Ann - May 04, 2016 at 09:55 AM

DC

“ How difficult it is to put memories of Mrs. K into words. I'll always remember her for her kindness and patience, and boy did we ever test both over the years. Anyone will tell you if you were a friend of Leon, Steve, Mark, or Katie then you weren't "just a friend" to Mrs. K; you became part of the family. I remember anytime I stopped by the K's I would always have to go upstairs and check in with Mr. and Mrs. K first before I went downstairs to see Leon. She always wanted to know how we were and what we were doing. No matter where my travels took me, whenever I was in Manassas it was a must to stop by the Kowalewski's and always got a big hug from Mrs. K (and a shot of Kessler's from Mr. K); she always treated me and my brothers like we were her kids too.

Mr. K, my heart aches for you over the loss of your beloved Mrs. K. To know you and Mrs. K over these 40+ years has been a real joy. While I was saddened to see and hear of her health deteriorating over the years I saw what it is to love someone unconditionally as you have done. You have been an inspiration to a lot of people. I hope that you can find peace in knowing that she isn't suffering anymore and that regardless of where all of us friends may be we are all thinking of you, Steve, Leon, Mark, and Katie and praying for comfort during this difficult time.

Na zdrowie (Bless you)

Dave Caruso - May 03, 2016 at 03:36 PM



“ Katy,
I met your mom several times and loved her smile! I have memories sitting with you looking at your photo albums and you pointing at your mom as a young mother with your dad and you and brothers. You would talk about how great she was and how beautiful. To my dear friend Katy, her beauty and heart shines in you! Hugs to you and family.
Love you
Marcia



m - May 03, 2016 at 12:50 AM



“ Mark and family, my heart is saddened by your loss and pain. I pray for comfort and God's love to carry you in these times of sorrow and grief.
Janie Lawson - Richmond, VA

janie - May 02, 2016 at 06:24 PM



“ Julie And Peter Allenby lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Donalda Kowalewski



Julie and Peter Allenby - May 02, 2016 at 04:46 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Phyllis Donalda Kowalewski.



May 02, 2016 at 10:48 AM



“ Though I only met her a few times, her impact was felt by my family through her amazing children and grandchildren. May your family cherish the good memories and find strength through each other.-
The Geisler Family

Charlotte Geisler - May 01, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ Aunt Phyllis, when I got to see you, you were always smiling, it was a great smile, I loved that smile. There were many things to love you for, it was always a good time when I knew all of you guys were coming....we loved playing with the kids when we were younger... Oh and your cooking was incredible!! Then later in life you got sick...and suffered so much...now I know you are at peace and no more suffering. I'll be praying for all you left behind... and that's a lot...you had everyone who met you .. love you..so for now I say goodbye with teary eyes ... and I will be praying... God bless...

Love so very very much..
Jeanne and Brian Coleman

Jeanne Coleman - April 30, 2016 at 11:27 PM

SK

Aww Jeanne. I wish we lived closer and could of spent more time with all "yinz". Thanks for the wonderful words about Phyllis. You know how hard it is to loose a loved one. We are very sad now but also know that time will ease the hurt. Take care. Don't loose touch with us. Love you.

Stephen Kowalewski - May 01, 2016 at 06:51 AM

D(

I will always remember the pretty lady who took time to talk to me as a child while living in England. She had a beautiful smile and I was saddened to hear throughout the years what she went through. God Bless.

Daralyn Allen (Braig)

Daralyn Allen (Braig) - May 01, 2016 at 10:11 AM

CR

Steve and family,we were heartbroken to hear the news of Phyllis passing. We have so many wonderful memories of our times together. Will remember them always. Love you all. God Bless. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Chris and Frank Ross

chris ross - May 01, 2016 at 06:21 PM

MM

Steve and family: Me and my family are saddened to hear about the passing of Phyllis. Ginny and I got acquainted with you and Phyllis primarily through our children and school. You are right, time will ease the hurt but it will never completely go away. My prayers are with you and your family.

Mel Maples

Mel Maples - May 01, 2016 at 07:40 PM

PW

The members of the Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad extend sympathies to Steve, Mark and family. Phyllis' Christmas cookies and hot chocolate are surely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Your SJVF&R Family

Pat Wilson - May 06, 2016 at 09:07 PM