



Doris Elizabeth Simonetti

September 23, 1942 - July 19, 2021

Doris Simonetti, age 78, died peacefully at home on July 19, 2021. Her family was there with her. She was sleeping and not responding to attempts to wake her, but her eyebrows raised slightly at the sound of her daughter Tara's voice a few minutes before she died.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019. Unfortunately, despite attempted treatments, the breast cancer metastasized quickly and spread throughout her body. A heart blockage formed by the cancer eliminated the possibility of any successful surgery 3 months ago. When the doctors informed her of this situation, she bravely decided to stop all treatment and go on Hospice at home.

She was a strong and loving woman, who had helped Sal, her husband of 55 years, through three open-heart surgeries, installation of a pacemaker and many other medical crises. She cared for her mother who had Multiple Sclerosis in the 1960's and was heartbroken when her daughter was diagnosed with the same. She nevertheless intended to be there to care for her daughter and family for as long as she could. She expressed no self-pity during her final months. Her only regret was not being able to continue to care for and be with her child and grandchildren.

She was a proud New Yorker, though she had lived in Virginia for nearly two

decades. She and Sal moved to Virginia from New York in 2003 when Tara, their only child, was expecting her first child.

She earned a Regents diploma from John Adams high school in Queens, New York. She always wanted to become a nurse, however going to college was not possible for her. However she became the unofficial nurse of the family, often helping with her husband's and daughter's illnesses and answering questions about medications and treatment for her entire extended family and friends. In her career as an Administrative Assistant, she held positions in companies in New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia. She often worked in the medical field, (hospitals, nursing homes) as she was drawn to the field. She was thankfully able to retire several years ago.

Doris was a dutiful daughter, a proud and loyal sister, the most loving and caring mother, and if you were lucky to be counted as her friend, then you know how awesome she was and how lucky you were. Doris was a singularly amazing woman, a loving wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, and Friend. Our hearts are broken over our loss of her in our lives. She was always a foundational pillar of strength, competence and compassion that is terribly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her only daughter Tara, her son-in-law Bill, her grandchildren Amelie and Tristan, and many inlaws and non-relatives who still regarded her as a sister and great friend.

Tribute Wall



“ *Doris Elizabeth Simonetti*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *"Doris was the most wonderful mother-in-law I could have wished for my son Bill. For 23+ years, she generously shared with us her upbeat personality, her humorous take on life, her steadiness under pressure, her commitment to family and caring for others. It says it all that she became one of Bill's cherished best friends. I also without question felt accepted and cared for right from our first meeting. Doris was easy to love and impossible to not respect. I am truly blessed that she was part of our lives for so many treasured years. Doris will always be with us and never forgotten."*

Andrea Baumann (Tara's mother-in-law)

Andrea Baumann (Mother inlaw) - September 12, 2021 at 05:51 PM

HT

“ There are so many special ways that I can remember my wonderful Sister (In-Law). The very first day that I met Doris & Sal they welcomed me into their family as if I have always belonged there. There are countless times after I married her brother George that we would just drop in on them at anytime of the day or night. We would sit over coffee and talk and laughing so much your sides hurt. We spent so many vacations together, Hawaii, Las Vegas and lots of Cruising. Oh how I miss the 3 of them! On July 6th, I was lucky enough to visit Doris and we talked about so many things, I treasure that last day with her. On the morning of 7/19, I received a text from Doris with beautiful pictures of Amelie, she was so proud & happy that she had her and the rest of the family by hers side always. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of her family and gain a special sister to share life with. She was the most loving and caring person that anyone would love to meet! Love & miss you Doris

Harriett Turnbull - September 10, 2021 at 12:44 PM

MT

“Doris not only became my sister-in-law in 1968 she also became my friend and NYC mentor. Can't even begin to narrow down all the wonderful memories we shared over the decades. Doris, Sal & Tara are family they will always be in our hearts. The memories, joys, sorrows over the decades are far to many to chose one or two. We raised our children together in NYC & in RI.

I recall back when we were sharing the family home in Rosdale Doris had gone to the grocery store. I received a frantic call from Doris She had driven over the concrete parking block and her new Pontiac was stuck. I rushed over to get her thinking she wanted a ride home with her food, wrong. She wanted my help to help her remove the car(?). Needless to say we didn't get very far but we did attract a crowd. With the help of everyone we managed to get it off. I managed to make myself scarce when Sal & George (her brother came home). All I heard was laughter that was the epitome of Sal. In all the time I knew him I never saw him angry. It took some time for Doris to live that down. Luckily her brother George was a mechanic at the time & fixed the car. The only time I saw Doris in a panic & not in charge. Made a bond of a true sister. My dreams of having a big sister & brother came true when Doris & Sal entered my life. I have been blessed when I became a Turnbull. Doris, Sal & George you are missed beyond words can expressed.

Love Aunt Martea

Tara remember you still have family not that far away.❤️

Martha Turnbull - September 07, 2021 at 07:40 PM

 Tina
Unrue

“ Mrs. Simonetti (I never called her Doris) was such a light. One of my fondest memories was of meeting her and Mr. Simonetti for the first time. Tara took me to their home and Mrs. Simonetti insisted on feeding me. It was my first introduction to hummus. I remember Mrs. Simonetti being shocked and wondering how I'd never had hummus before! (Understandable question given I was in my mid-20s.) We joked that I had a sheltered childhood. Ever since then, I think of her when I buy hummus, which is often, but only thanks to her. I remember the fun of the conversation, but also all the love she poured into me each time she saw me after that. I am praying for the Simonetti family and friends who are adapting to a life without her and hoping these sweet memories help to ease some of the pain.

Tina Unrue - September 07, 2021 at 11:29 AM

DV

“ Butterflies have always had a special meaning too me; Infact, I planted a butterfly plant this summer; I wanted to send Tara and her family something meaningful. I, along with Beth Lombardo (Beths' husband, Nicky, & my husband, Jim VanValen, grew up with Sal), sent a Memorial Butterfly Wind Chimes. While I was ordering it on Amazon, I looked out my patio door...a beautiful Monarch was in front of my window. 'She' was enjoying particles from the plant; I was elated since I hadnt seen a butterfly all summer until then; For sure, it was a sign from Doris;

Our friendship started 50years ago, when my husband introduced me to Doris & Sal; Little did I know then how much they would mean too me; Between laughs, we shared so much; we were Family...Doris, I will miss you; Say hi to Jim for me...tell him I love him..Will see you guys one day..

Love

Danielle

Danielle VanValen - September 07, 2021 at 09:53 AM

JR

“ I considered Doris my sister She will be dearly missed. We had so many fun phone calls together with our sister sandra;!which gave us all hope for her recovery. She took such wonderful care of our brother Sal who passed away last year
On Aug 21 I had a realistic dream;that Doris and Sal came to my home to ask if they could stay with me for 15 days or more! Holding hands asking about my health. What a lovely dream. I asked Tara if anything special would happen 15? Days ? Tara and Bill having an anniversary today.

Joanna Simonetti Renzi - September 05, 2021 at 07:24 PM

TM

“ Funny quote: "When told that the KETO diet prohibited Tara from eating fruit...
"she doesn't eat fruit, it's like hating God!"

Tara Mohn - September 05, 2021 at 02:48 PM