



Maureen C. Fusillo

September 30, 1945 - October 29, 2019

Maureen C. Fusillo, formerly of Great Kills and most recently a resident of Boca Raton, Florida, passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early morning hours on October 29. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 26 years, Raymond Fusillo. She is survived by her devoted husband of 13 years, Raymond Holewienko, her daughters Jillian Fusillo and Lauren Fusillo Levy, her son-in-law David Levy and her two beloved grandsons, Rowan and Theodore.

Maureen was born on September 30, 1945 to Matthew and Catherine Kennedy (nee Feeney). She lived with her parents, older brother Matthew, and younger sister Catherine in Brooklyn, NY. In 1968, she married Raymond Fusillo, also of Brooklyn. In 1978, Maureen, Ray and their daughters moved to Staten Island.

Once her daughters reached school age, she decided to return to work, beginning a lengthy career working with students with developmental disabilities, first as a paraprofessional and later as a special education teacher in several public schools. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education from the College of Staten Island while working full time and raising her family. For her Master's thesis, Maureen Fusillo wrote a comprehensive history of the Willowbrook State School, conducting extensive first-person interviews with the staff and residents of the institution. Her thesis provided significant source material for the book "History and Sociology of the Willowbrook State School," published in 2013.

While a student, she was named a Kennedy Fellow by Reaching Up, a nonprofit organization dedicated to those who worked with disabled individuals, in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements. John F. Kennedy, Jr. presented her with the award, a proud moment in her professional development. Above all, Maureen was a dedicated special educator and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Strength and determination were prevailing themes in Maureen's life. She faced many obstacles, including the sudden loss of her first husband in 1994, but she never stopped

fighting to achieve her goals, setting a stellar example for her family. Despite the limitations caused by health challenges, nevertheless Maureen persisted. She and her husband Ray traveled extensively in retirement, enjoying cruises to the Caribbean, Europe and South America. A particular highlight was their trip to Israel. She would often marvel that she had been able to visit so many countries, something she would never have thought possible as a child in Brooklyn.

She was a lover of musical theater and the Rolling Stones, rarely passing up an opportunity to see them on their various tours over the years. Family was the most important thing to Maureen - she loved to spend time with her grandsons, whether traveling to Disneyworld, enjoying powdered donuts or relaxing at home watching a movie.

She believed strongly in justice and advocacy for the most vulnerable members of society and was not shy about sharing her thoughts on the failure of political leadership to provide such individuals with support. Even as her mobility became more limited, she continued to voice her political views through online platforms, in the process finding a community of like-minded people that helped lift her spirits as her health declined.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that donations be made in Maureen's memory to either the American Lung Association or the Special Olympics.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 AM on Saturday at Holy Child Church located at 4747 Amboy Rd Staten Island, New York 10312. Interment will follow in Moravian Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday, November 1, 2019, at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

Cemetery

Moravian Cemetery

2205 Richmond Road
Staten Island, NY, 10306

Events

NOV **Visitation** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

1

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, NY, US, 10312

NOV **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

1

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, NY, US, 10312

NOV **Service** 10:00AM

2

Holy Child Church
4747 Amboy Rd, Staten Island, NY, US, 10312

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - November 01, 2019 at 03:18 PM



“ 67 files added to the album LifeTributes



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - November 01, 2019 at 03:17 PM



“ Maureen was always bright, caring and funny. I will miss her openness and ability to communicate her thoughts.
Sally da Fonte

sally da Fonte - October 31, 2019 at 09:10 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Maureen C. Fusillo.



October 31, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ I met Maureen through my sister Gilda Slomka. They both graduated from Erasmus Hall High School and went to work full time.

We became good friends as the years went by. She became a young widow and

raised two wonderful daughters. She was very happy with her children, grandchildren and both of her husbands.

Her family was devoted to to this warm and wonderful women who brightened their lives.

Ray H. her second husband was by her side for the past 13 years. He helped her cope with the variety of illnesses that came with old age.

May Maureen Rest In Peace in the knowledge that she helped humanity throughout her life and left a legacy full of good deeds.

Clare Bursky - October 31, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ With love Susan and Brian Mulherin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Maureen C. Fusillo.



With love Susan and Brian Mulherin - October 31, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ Although Maureen and I went to Erasmus Hall High School we never knew each other. We went to work at Bache & Co, our first jobs. From then, 1964 we became the best of friends. I was there when her children were born and throughout the years. She was always there for me, and my family. She was a wonderful friend, mother and grandmother and will be sorely missed. Rest in peace.

Love, Gilda Slomka & family

Gilda Slomka - October 31, 2019 at 08:47 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maureen C. Fusillo.



October 31, 2019 at 08:23 AM



“ To the family: I had the pleasure to befriend Maureen many years ago when we worked together at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company in Manhattan. We had many enjoyable times together including my wedding and visiting each other on Staten Island. My sincere condolences on the loss of your wonderful Mom and wife. She will be sadly missed. Rest In Peace dear friend. Forever Lucille

Lucille Cona Evangelista - October 30, 2019 at 11:33 PM



“ Maureen was one of a kind: whip smart, funny and passionate. I feel very lucky that I met her via her daughters and that she befriended me. I loved her stories which she always told with spunk and flare. She doted on her grandchildren and it was very charming. I'll miss her very, very much. Laura Pogliano

laura pogliano - October 30, 2019 at 08:21 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Maureen C. Fusillo.



October 30, 2019 at 08:21 PM



“ Love, Marianne and family purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Maureen C. Fusillo.



Love, Marianne and family - October 30, 2019 at 05:47 PM



“ We met Maureen on the Enchantment of the Seas. She was a trivia player, like we were. A worthy opponent. :)
Thanks for the times Maureen. Hope you win all the triva games.

Hugs to Ray and the family. We'll keep you in our thoughts. Tanya Gabriel and Andre Lamouche.

tanya - October 30, 2019 at 05:35 PM