



Mildred Mele

November 26, 1940 - January 6, 2017

ONCE MORE TOGETHER

-Andrew Paul Mele

On the sixth day of January in this new year my wife, lover, partner and friend of nearly 57 years passed away. Only someone who has lost a loved one can comprehend the reality. Forgive my outpouring of grief but as someone once said, "a writer must write as a mountain climber must climb mountains or else go crazy." Words therefore help me maintain my sanity. James Howell called them, "The soul's ambassadors." Ours was a relatively simple existence. We had no "bucket list." There was no place we longed to travel to but lacked either the money or the opportunity, no mountains to climb nor rivers to cross before time takes its toll.

We wanted to be able to remember and memories are a blessing. It was the writer James Barrie who expressed the salient thought. "God gave us our memories so we'd have roses in December." For Millie and myself those memories were modest but poignant visions. Summers in Coney Island with a hot dog and French fries from Nathan's. Watching the ball drop on Times Square on New Years Eve from the balcony of the party room at the old Diplomat Hotel. A movie with a box of popcorn and a kiss or two in the balcony of the Beverly theater.

A beautiful bride and a wedding day in the rain that turned to sun as the vows were spoken. The birth of children, the first on a Christmas morning after a frantic snowy ride to the hospital, the other on a cold February day, both Sundays, both blessed occasions . And then a grandchild, a gift from heaven. There were hot chocolates after a drive on Lighthouse Hill viewing the Christmas lights, and hamburgers at Cosmos on Hylan Blvd. Lobster night on the terrace at Carmen's Restaurant at the foot of Barlow Avenue in Annadale with a glass of sangria and a glorious view of our own Mediterranean Sea, also known as Lower New York Bay.

Summer vacations in the Poconoes, the World's Fair at Flushing Meadows and a view of Michelangelo's glorious creation, the Pieta. School plays and piano recitals. Back yard barbeques with laughter and love and the children splashing in the pool. To remember one more Sunday afternoon cruising on a neighbor's boat out of Great Kills Marina. A day at Sand Lane watching the kids on the roller coaster or joining them riding the carousel in Bull's Head.

Dreams unfulfilled? Plans not executed? Certainly. But none so severe as to rattle our world. No. No bucket list. Nothing we longed to do but never did. Regrets? Of course. They constitute all of the things we would do just one more time. Another trip to Cape May and the ancient Inn on the beach. One more seafood dinner at the Lobsterhouse. A stroll while pushing a shopping cart in the Key Food, a slice of pizza, a thick Sicilian slice at the Villa Monte in Arden Heights. One more barbeque on the deck in the back yard. One more Sunday in the kitchen and the aroma of a delectable meal brewing...could be mom's family favorite Lasagna. Once more together on Christmas Eve.

One more day in the sun at Gateway Park watching the boats bobbing gently in their placid pool. One more cozy rainy night with a DVD of an old classic film; Casablanca or The Ghost and Mrs. Muir. Or perhaps a more recent and

lighter love story like Serendipity or one of her favorites, Sweet Home Alabama, but since it was not one of mine, a good chance to catch up on some reading. One more meeting with old friends and old catch-up memories. Once more a Chinese meal at our favorite place, Jade Island. A cozy booth beneath a mural of an Island outrigger, our version of a trip to the exotic South Pacific.

One more Sunday afternoon drive to the Pocono Mountains, a shrimp dinner at Smugglers Cove, and a dish overflowing with her favorite salad bar delights. Once more together to attend a graduation exercise, this time a grandchild, something she would never miss, our proof that there is a heaven, for she will be there. One more home cooked meal on the deck on a balmy fall day. Once more to revel in her joy at a winning lotto ticket however meager it may be. Once more together to kneel at Sunday mass in prayer. One more New Years Eve at Jade Island with family and among friends, even ones we don't know.

Once more to stroll together hand-in-hand on a beach, a Staten Island street...or anywhere. Once more together to lug a myriad of gifts through the mall in the waning days of December. One more spring planting, those glorious begonias that she willed to perfection with love and the right amount of watering. Once more to lie in bed and feel the warmth beside you. Fittingly, in the end she was treated with the same care and respect and attention by the dedicated staff at NYU Medical Center as she gave so compassionately to others all these years.

She wanted to return once more to her work, to the work and the people she loved, at the Staten Island University Hospital and with the good sisters at the Presentation Convent. It was said of her that she "always worried about everybody else" where she gave so much of herself so selflessly. These were

my dreams also and my wishful thinking, none of which can be fulfilled. But these dreams are interlocked with the memories, and there is nothing left to wish for, only to remember in gratitude and warmth and love.

Adieu, my beloved!

Thank you and Godspeed.

Mildred is survived by her beloved husband, Andrew Mele; loving children, Christine Love and Andrew Mele; dear brother, James Santore and cherished granddaughter, Alexandra Love.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. on Monday at St. Thomas The Apostle Church located at 50 Maguire Avenue Staten Island, New York. Interment will follow in Ocean View Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. on Sunday at The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station), Staten Island, New York.

Cemetery Details

Ocean View Cemetery

3315 Amboy Rd
Staten Island, NY 10306

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

JAN 8. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

JAN 9. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Thomas The Apostle Church
6097 Amboy Rd
Staten Island, NY 10309

Tribute Wall



“ *Mildred Mele*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM




“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Andy Mele family at this sad time.*

Bill Turner - January 13, 2017 at 11:53 PM



“ *Dear Mildred(Millie), I never met you but for the past couple of years, I have had the Honor & Privilege of getting to know your Wonderful Husband, Andy. I just finished reading his Loving Tribute to you & his Heartfelt words Truly gave me a sense as to who you were & how Graciously you lived your life. In addition, he so vividly & sentimentally described the Dedicated relationship that you & he shared throughout your marriage. On a personal note, his Memorial to you brought back so many memories as to how I felt in August 2014, when my Angelic wife, Loraine, of 29 years, suddenly & unexpectedly, passed away in my arms in my home. I know exactly how Bitter/Sweet, it feels pertaining to All of the emotions that are running around Andy's Heart & Mind. But I can assure Andy, that as his life moves forward, All of the Beautiful Memories that he has of you, will only become that much more of a Precious Blessed gift that you will be endlessly bestowing on him from your place of honor, as you rest in God's Heavenly Kingdom, patiently waiting to be reunited with your Loving Andrew. God Bless You & Thank you for being the Loving, Dedicated, Compassionate, Loyal & Dignified Human Being that Andy so lovingly described. I would have considered it to be a Blessing in my life if I would have been fortunate to me you, Sincerely, Tony Polisano*

Tony Polisano - January 12, 2017 at 06:14 PM


Christine
Bisinovski

“ I'll never forget my dear friend Mildred Mele, my mother away from home. She always looked out for me and treated me like a daughter. She was a phenomenal woman who holds a very special place in my heart. I still remember how much energy she had. Whether at work or home, she devoted her life to her family and doing good deeds. I wonder if she knew how much I admired her and wanted in so many ways to be like her. A great mother, wife, friend, coworker, she did it all was a model of a Good Person. Anything she took on, anything she accomplished, it was for purposes of doing good, like a calling. She was angelic and always had a beautiful presence about her. She was such a hard worker too , and so dedicated to helping others. I loved listening to her perspective. It was divine, so meaningful, impactful, yet so matter of fact and straight forward. She had a subtle way of helping all who came in contact with her. We worked together at the South Site of Staten Island Hospital. Each morning, I'd walk in (usually late-lol) and she'd always had a smile on her face and a positive way about her. We laughed so hard, about so many things-I don't really know if I've laughed that way since leaving SIUH in 2001. Funny, in that laughter, I would always admire her vigor and passion, it never diminished. I'll never forget 9/11/01, she took the call about the twin towers. Her calm demeanor is what helped us all get through that day. I will miss her genuine and very sincere smile and will never forget how much she taught me. I hope she knows how much of an impact she had on so many and I especially hope she knows how grateful I am for her friendship and love during my time at South site of the hospital. May she rest in peace and may God grant her family the strength to get through this difficult period. May her life always be celebrated.



Christine Bisinovski - January 09, 2017 at 09:07 PM

SM

“ Christine, Alexandra and Mele Family. We are so sorry for your loss and we keep you in our prayers. Another angel is looking down and will be with you forever. All our love, Sharon Murphy, Romeo and Isabella.

Sharon murphy - January 09, 2017 at 07:52 PM

TF

“ Mr mele and ms Christina mele -love. We are so sorry for your loss. Michael, jennifer, Tiffany and Mikey tichio



tichio family - January 09, 2017 at 02:21 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mildred Mele.



January 08, 2017 at 12:05 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Mele.



January 08, 2017 at 11:45 AM

FB

“ I was lucky enough to have met Mildred in April of 1995. We worked together for many years after that. She had always treated me like another son. She had a banana on my desk every single morning. She always had my back when I was having an off day. She was not only the best co-worker you could ask for, but a dear friend. Every day I would be greeted with her big smile and a friendly good morning. What a way to start the day. That's the type of woman that Mildred was, always looking out for everyone else... selfless is a word that comes to mind. She had a natural gift to make you laugh when you wanted to cry and always had a shoulder to lean on when you needed it. She was a true friend indeed. I have so many great memories of Mildred and her beautiful family. We would go to see the Staten Island Yankees play the Brooklyn Cyclones and even went to Brooklyn to see the Cyclones on their home field in Brooklyn. Another great memory is when Mildred and Andy would meet my parents for lunch at the local pizzeria and talk about old time Staten Island the way it was. The memories can go on and on. There will always be a special place in my heart for Mildred. She was one of a kind!! I know you are certainly in the hands of God now and heaven is now your new home. Rest In Peace. I Love you! Love, Frank Ballweg.

Frank Ballweg - January 08, 2017 at 11:22 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mildred Mele.



January 08, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Mildred Mele.*



January 08, 2017 at 09:47 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mildred Mele.*



January 08, 2017 at 12:53 AM



“ *Jim & Bea, & family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Mildred Mele.*



Jim & Bea, & family - January 07, 2017 at 08:20 PM