



# **Maria Blanchard**

DEC 6, 2017



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## Maria Blanchard

DEC 6, 2017

**O**bituary

Maria Teresa Blanchard left her native Italy as a teenager to make a new life in the United States. She married, raised a family, became an American citizen and spread love to her seven grandchildren. On Dec. 6, 2017, at age 81, her journey took her into God's care as she died peacefully in Frederick with her husband and children at her side. She had been treated for a brain tumor. Born and raised in Rome, she came to the U.S at 18 to join the mother she adored -- mia adorata mamma, as she wrote on the back of a picture in 1961. Maria took English classes in Washington, D.C and got a job as a clerk in accounts receivable at Marriott Corp., where she met William Blanchard Jr. They would have celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on Dec. 8. She called him "love," and he called her "my sweet." They had two children -- a daughter, Diane, and a son, Scott -- and lived first in Hyattsville, Md. and then Rockville. Maria and the children made frequent trips to Bethesda to visit her mother, Lena Jayme, sister Paola and stepfather Enrico (who died in 1990). With the kids out of college, Bill and Maria moved to Frederick in the early 1990s. She made their home into party central for their children and grandchildren, as well as her mother and sister. On birthdays and at Christmas and Easter, adults and children alike would sprawl across the family-room floor to celebrate with gifts and food. And if you were part of the family -- or a friend or acquaintance who visited -- you knew to expect warm and ceaseless offers of something to eat or drink. In her 60s, she passed the test to become a U.S. citizen, a proud moment in her life. She loved her dear friends, many from the Italian community she found when she arrived in America. She loved flowers and her garden. She loved her children's families: Diane and John Hawkins of Thurmont and their children Elise, Justin, Rosemary and Robert; and Scott and Betsy Blanchard of Littlestown, Pa. and their children Zachary, Elin and Luke. She loved Bill, and they bonded over Italian music, including a



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favorite that sang of "anima e cuore" -- heart and soul. She never stopped grieving her beloved mother, who died in 2008. Bill, Diane and Scott and their families, and Paola treasure Maria's memory. Visitation will be Thursday, Dec. 14 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 18 E. 2nd St. in Frederick, followed immediately by the Funeral Mass at 10:30. A Rite of Committal will then be held at Resthaven Memorial Gardens, 9501 Catocin Mountain Highway, Frederick. In lieu of flowers, please kindly contribute to the National Italian American Foundation in Washington, D.C. at [niaf.org](http://niaf.org) or 1860 19th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Service Resthaven Memorial Gardens 9501 Catocin Mtn Hwy Frederick, MD 21701 Visitation Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church 118 E 2nd St Frederick, MD 21701 Thursday, December 14, 2017 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM MASS Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church 118 E 2nd St Frederick, MD 21701 Thursday, December 14, 2017 10:30 AM Burial Resthaven Memorial Gardens 9501 Catocin Mtn Hwy Frederick, MD 21701 Thursday, December 14, 2017

To send flowers to the family, please visit our floral store.



## Tribute Wall

**Maria Blanchard**

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**Kari** posted:

What an extraordinary life. The word that comes up more than any other is love. That's a beautiful thing and the bedrock of a life lived well. I will be thinking of your family and hope that as your grieve you will be comforted by the deep well of love your mother gave you and all of those around you.  
Much love, Kari

December 12 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Maria by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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