



Josephine Arena Holt

August 29, 1928 - May 31, 2021

Josephine Arena Holt, age 92, of Springfield, Pennsylvania, died May 31, 2021.

Born August 29, 1928, the only daughter of the three children of Vincenzo and Vincenza Faillaci Arena, she is now joyfully reunited with her most beloved and cherished husband, Clement Smith Holt, to whom she was married on December 7, 1957, as well as her brothers, Sebastian Arena, M.D. and Vincent Arena, their wives, her nephew Mark Vincent Arena, and her great-nephew, Anthony Arena DeFalco. She is survived in the U.S. by her dear cousin, Marie Palumbo Bova and her children and in Italy by her cousins Aurora Arena, Riccardo Arena and his daughter Maria Cristina Arena. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved her as their second mother as well as by dozens of great and great-great nieces and nephews and many friends of all ages.

During her 46 years at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Josephine served in several capacities and rose to the important role of Executive Secretary to the Executive Director and also served as the Patient Advocate for the Hospital. For many years she was the Hospital liaison to the Women's Auxiliary Board of the Abrahamsohn Committee and the Philadelphia Antique Show.

Josephine was a woman of deep faith, compassion, and love who appreciated every day that she was able to spend with her family and friends. She always put others before herself and was remarkable in ways too numerous to mention. Those who knew her understand the incredible generosity and grace with which she conducted herself every day of her life.

Visitation will be from 10 – 11 AM on Friday, June 4, 2021, at the Church of the Redeemer, 145 W. Springfield Road, Springfield, PA, to be immediately followed by a service at 11 AM. Interment following the service will be at West Laurel Hills Cemetery.

Josephine requested that, in lieu of flowers, those who wish to commemorate her life make a donation to Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children, 135 Clelian Heights Lane, Greensburg, PA 15601, or to the Church of the Redeemer.

Cemetery Details

West Laurel Hill Cemetery

225 Belmont Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Redeemer
145 N. Springfield Road
Springfield, PA 19064

Service

JUN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Redeemer
145 N. Springfield Road
Springfield, PA 19064

Tribute Wall



“ *Josephine Arena Holt*

October 22, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ *I was new to Philadelphia and my husband joined the Department of Radiology Oncology in 1980. I became busy with various women's committees and Jo was a wonderful mentor to me. I was deeply saddened when I read her obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer. I send my condolences to all of the family and pray that she will remember all her friends from the women's committees from heaven.*

Mary Ellen Yuhas

Mary Ellen Yuhas - June 24, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ *I will miss our afternoon teas and communion and our weekly telephone chats after I moved to Florida. Josie, I miss you so much. Prayers to Ramona and to all her nieces and nephews, greats and great-greats. She was a great lady and wonderful friend.*

*Love,
Mary Huber*

Mary E. Huber - June 03, 2021 at 12:46 PM

MA

“ Aunt Josephine, I won't never forget the first time we met. You welcomed me and my friends at your house in 2008, you didn't know me before but it was as if we had always known each other. We met again in 2009 when I was with my father Riccardo, your cousin, it was the first time you ever met each other in your lives. First time that the cousins met. How touching was that moment! Miles kept you apart but love has always been present and firm in our Family.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure"

We will never forget you.

Riccardo, Aurora, Maria Cristina & Alessandro



Maria Cristina Arena - June 03, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Josephine Arena Holt.*



June 03, 2021 at 10:44 AM

DH

“ *What a sweet lady! I met her at Church of the Redeemer, she always had a smile for everyone. When she attended the May tea, she always complemented everyone involved, and had such a good time . Wish I had known her longer, Rest In Peace Josephine !!*

Dorothy Hall - June 03, 2021 at 09:14 AM



“ *I had the privilege of taking Communion to Josephine at her home in Springfield after it became difficult for her to get out to church. She was gracious and welcoming and appreciated our time together. The pandemic stopped my visits but we talked on the phone from time to time from March 2020 until before her final decline. I will miss her friendly smile as we in the choir processed or recessed by her pew on normal Sunday mornings.*

Linda Thompson Bennett

Linda Thompson - June 02, 2021 at 10:25 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine Arena Holt.*



June 02, 2021 at 06:13 PM

DB

“ I remember when I was young and we were down the shore with Aunt Jo. For some reason Josephine the Jelly Bean popped into my head and I started saying it to my brothers and sisters. So Lucille decided to tell Aunt Jo. I was so embarrassed, even though I meant nothing by it. So Aunt Jo, being the person she was told be she loved Jelly Beans and it was a compliment. I have many memories of Aunt Jo. She will be missed

Dave Bova

Dave Bova - June 02, 2021 at 02:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Josephine Arena Holt.



June 02, 2021 at 02:21 PM