



Andrea Ann McKenna

December 17, 1941 - August 24, 2019

McKenna (nee Kakstis), Andrea Ann – 77, of Cape May, passed away on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Born in Elizabeth, NJ, Andrea resided in Flemington, NJ, before moving to the Cape May area 25 years ago. She was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Elizabeth, NJ; earned her nursing degree from St. Peter's School of Nursing in New Brunswick, NJ and later earned her Master's Degree in Counseling from Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. Andrea enjoyed a long and successful career as an Occupational Health Nurse with ExxonMobil. While in the Cape May area and during her retirement years, Andrea worked and volunteered within the local senior community of Cape May. Throughout her life, she maintained a strong relationship with the Alumni Association of St. Peter's School of Nursing and enjoyed her friendships within this circle. Among many things in her life, Andrea enjoyed traveling, living at the seashore, baking and simply being with her friends and family. She is predeceased by her parents, Charles and Anna Kakstis and her son, Thomas McKenna. Andrea is dearly missed by her loving family which includes her daughter, Cindy McKenna; brother, Donald (and Patricia) Kakstis; nieces, Jennifer Pogyor and Alison Krisak and her daughter-in-law, Linda McKenna. Andrea's funeral ceremony will take place on Thursday (Aug. 29th) at 11:30am in the Spilker Funeral Home, 815 Washington St., Cape May where friends will be received from 10:30am until 11:30am. Interment will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to: Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation online at: www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org / Info and condolences: spilkerfuneralhome.com

Events

AUG **Visitation** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

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Spilker Funeral Home

815 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US, 08204

AUG **Service** 11:30AM

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Spilker Funeral Home

815 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US, 08204

Comments



“ Andrea came to me from Geriatric Care to counsel me during my journey as a caregiver to a husband with dementia. For the past several years she came to me one once a week to have cup of tea and talk. She never looked at the walls blankly as I spoke, she interacted, she told my stories of her past, making me feel I wasn't alone in my thoughts or feelings. She always asked, "so what's going on?" or "tell me about..." Andrea was one of the best counselors I ever had. We became friends. She knew me inside and out, my thoughts, feelings, deep emotions, my family, my struggles, my everything. She was a woman who anyone could open up to. I easily talked, cried and expressed myself freely. If I said too much, she would sheepishly say, "to be continued next week....see you then" It was like an on going soap opera and Andrea was very interested in tuning in. She told me things when I asked and she directed me in the right directions. She made me aware that life brings challenges but go and conquer them one step at a time. Don't let fear rule you and so much more....

Well, Andrea is at peace with her family, but she knows she left some unfinished business here on earth. My show isn't over yet and either are the many other people she was lending her ear. She will greatly be missed. I honored her, respected her, appreciated her and needed her in my life. A great friend and a new member of my family. She never told me my time was up at the end of my counseling session, she kept listening.....but I guess OUR time is up now. Andrea, I promise I will take your advice and be as strong as you were. But please know there will be Fridays where I will still expect your visit so I could blabber on for an hour or two while you sit and listen. You will continue to hold me up in mind, body and spirit and your tea will be hot, (no sugar, no milk), waiting for you on the table next to your chair. Your new friend, Christine

chrisitne - August 29, 2019 at 07:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda McKenna - August 28, 2019 at 07:02 PM



“ I met Andrea five years ago when I attended my first Grief Group at Cape Regional Medical Center. We became very friendly and enjoyed movies, shows, dinners, and shopping together. I will miss my dear friend.

Theresa Appenzeller - August 27, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ I was one of six of us nursing school students who stayed together throughout the 3 years of nursing--going to outside rotations, i.e. Baltimore and NYC, and learning obstetrics, operating room, medical-surgery at St Peter's Hospital. We formed a tight bond during those three years. Even though I moved away from New Jersey, we kept in touch over the years. Losing Andi will leave a void that no one can fill. I will so miss her.

Marianna Crane
mcrane53@gmail.com



marianna Crane - August 26, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ So sorry to hear that Andrea has passed away. She was my cousin. Praying for her family.

Paula

Paula Strong - August 26, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ Andrea has been a great friend and mentor to me. After the loss of my husband, I quickly joined the grief support group at Cape Regional. It was there that I met Andrea, as she facilitated the group. She was always able to draw people out- how am I ever going to do that? She had wonderful “ people skills.” She was caring, concerned and even funny! Our group shared many thoughts and secrets and had many enjoyable dinners together. Andrea will be missed by so many and I will have HUGE shoes to fill! I promised that she would not have to worry about “ us.” God speed, my friend! I will certainly miss you, Kathy Wilson



Kathy Wilson - August 26, 2019 at 12:40 PM