



## Marie E. Shirley

April 19, 1927 - December 14, 2019

Marie E. Shirley, 92, (born Cianfrani) of West Cape May, formerly of North Wildwood and Philadelphia, died peacefully on Saturday, December 14, surrounded by the love of her family and dear friends.

She attended The South Philadelphia High School for Girls, where she excelled at art. As a young mother, she worked alongside first husband Ralph Bernstein at their corner store in Olney, making Italian water ice from scratch that customers were happy to wait in line for. After moving to North Wildwood, she worked at Woody's Place for thirteen years. Later she worked with her son and daughter in law at The Great Atlantic Kite Co. and Aqua Trails Kayak tours in Cape May. She loved spending winters in Pompano Beach, FL, near her daughter and her family, with second husband, John Shirley.

Marie was known for her feisty, unfiltered take on life. She had a flair for fashion and never left home without being "put together." This talent also extended to interior decorating. Her gravy and meatballs were unsurpassed.

Late in life, she joined The Lighthouse Church, where she found her true spiritual family, friends and community.

Left to cherish her memory and make the gravy are her sister, Dolores (Tootsie) Capozzoli, daughter Jackie Chambers, son in law Doug, grandsons Doug and Andrew, son Mike Bernstein, daughter in law Lisa, granddaughters (aka chickadees) Molly and Sarah, bonus sons Edward Zanan and John Britton, and bonus daughter Mary Britton, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of Marie's life will be held on Saturday, January 4, at SPILKER FUNERAL HOME, 815 Washington Street, with visitation beginning at 10 am, Memorial Service to follow at 11 am. Interment will be private later in the month.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested in Marie's name to The

Lighthouse Church, 1248 Route 9 South, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210.

# Events

---

**JAN**   **Visitation**            10:00AM - 11:00AM

**4**

---

Spilker Funeral Home

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

**JAN**   **Service**                    11:00AM

**4**

---

Spilker Funeral Home

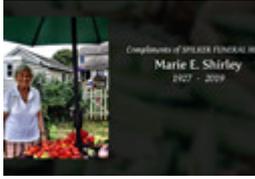
815 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US, 08204

# Comments

---



“ An external video has been added.



**Spilker Funeral Home** - January 03 at 06:04 PM

---



“ Written by Marie's son, Mike and read by Lisa (Mike's wife) on the day Marie's life was honored and celebrated with a memorial ceremony on January 4, 2020.

Thank you all for coming to say farewell to our mother, Marie E. Shirley, Reezie, Mommom, Mom. In time, death finds us all. It doesn't matter how well you eat or what shape you're in, where you live, what you believe in or how much money you may or may not have, there are no exceptions. So now is the time to appreciate what and who you have in your life. In the last few months when I went to visit Mom, it got harder to say goodbye. I payed closer attention, I tried to memorize the lines of her face, the shape of her nose, her smile and the way she laughed. Anything I could hang on to and pass on, always thinking this could be the last time, and hoping it wasn't. Things from our past that bothered me don't seem to matter much anymore. I know you only get one mom, one mother, one person if you're lucky who cares about you and will put you first. This was Our Mother, perfect she wasn't and when we were young she worked long hours to keep a roof over our heads, the fridge full and put clothes on our backs. When you're young you don't get it, you don't have enough experience to figure out that it's harder than it looks. In the end, the good and the bad don't really matter, it's what you choose to carry forward with you into the future. Choose carefully. I think we'll take the good with us and leave the rest. We'll take our corner store in Olney, the hand made water ice and Halloween costumes and selling Christmas trees; swimming at the club, meat on bread, the rides down the shore and the thumpity thump of Old Route 47 to meet up with our cousins at our grandparents house in North Wildwood, sandy sandwiches, iodine and baby oil on the beach, Mom's Rambler, spaghetti and meatballs, gookie chicken, ladybugs, bagels and mimosas on Christmas morning and all the little things she did to make us feel special. Mom will be with us until it's our time to leave this place and I hope we can make her proud of the family she left behind. Thank you all for taking the time to honor Our Mother with your presence today. We're glad Mom was part of your lives and made enough of an impression to say farewell. I am sure she would be overwhelmed and surprised at the number of lives she has touched. Thank you all very much for being here today and for being Mom's friend.

**Dennis Spilker** - January 05 at 12:10 PM

---



“ To Jackie & Mike. It was the late Sixties, early Seventies — I still remember so clearly hanging out at the apt in Angelsea, and your mom coming home exhausted from her shift. We were all a handful, but your mom lit a cigarette, yelled a little, and ultimately created two wonderful human beings. Love and peace from Kathy C. (Formerly K.O.)

**Kathy Cater** - January 02 at 10:47 PM