



Rose J. Lilly

January 22, 1923 - July 3, 2021

Rose J. Lilly passed away peacefully on July 3 at her residence in Heartis San Antonio. Born on January 22, 1923 in New York City. Her parents Joseph and Antoinette Mugavero were Sicilian immigrants who settled on the Lower East side of Manhattan. At the age of 7 the family moved to the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn NY, where she lived with her father, four sisters and an older brother. Rose attended Lafayette High School where she developed a beautiful singing voice. She was set on a career in “show business” and radio when she met a young Army Air Force Cadet on leave from flight school, they were married shortly thereafter.

Rose and Al would stay together for over 50 years, raise 5 children and travel the world following Al's career.

In addition to being a singer, synchronized swimmer and dancer, Rose had a successful career in Real Estate, becoming the first woman in San Antonio to reach over \$1,000,000 in sales in 1972. Rose was proud of her Sicilian upbringing. She loved to cook, and Sundays would always have a large pot of sauce on the stove, which was served with homemade meatballs during halftime of the Dallas Cowboys' games. She also loved to listen the Texas Longhorns on the radio every Saturday. Frequently yelling at the radio when a play went awry...

The house was always alive with music, especially the hits of the 40s, with

Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Tony Bennett. Rose was the consummate entertainer, hosting dinner parties, bridge games, coffees and lunches. She loved a house full of people and during the summer months the house was constantly full of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. An extraordinarily independent woman, Rose swam every day into her 90s and played bridge weekly. Her house was open to anyone, with freshly baked cakes and coffee awaiting all who happened to stop by. "No one leaves my house hungry!"

Rose was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, LTC Albert J. Lilly, USAF (Ret.) who was Chief of Police of Universal City Texas, her daughter, Alberta Jegen Lilly and son Albert J. Lilly Jr., as well as her son-in-law, COL Denis Riva, U.S.A.F. (Ret.). Rose is survived by her daughters, Patricia L. Riva of Richmond, VA and Maureen G. Militti and husband, Danny of Omaha, NE; her son, Kevin J. Lilly and wife, Lesley of Houston, TX; her grandchildren include John Jegen of Bitburg, Germany, Christian Jegen of Stamford, CT, Albert J. Lilly, III and James Lilly of Austin, TX, Katherine Lilly of San Diego, CA, Denis P. Riva Jr. and Brian V. Riva both of Richmond, VA. Meghan Rose Gallagher, Danielle Robins, Catherine Militti and Jackie Makarov all of Omaha, NE, Anna Grace Jerles of Holloman AFB, NM, John Albert Lilly and James Ryan Lilly both of Houston, TX; her 14 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank Lt. Matt Murray of the San Antonio Police Department for his more than 25 years of loyal friendship to Rose and Chief Lilly. In addition we thank mom's loyal caregiver, Adela Ramos.

Services will be held for family and friends at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive on Friday July 23 at noon followed by a brief interment service at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Friends are invited

to join the family for refreshments at San Antonio Country Club at 2:30pm on Friday July 23, 2021.

In lieu of flowers, (contributions in her memory) can be made to the USAF Security Forces Museum Foundation in the name of LTC and Mrs. Albert J. Lilly.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Service

JUL 23. 12:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Reception

JUL 23. 2:30 PM (CT)

San Antonio Country Club
4100 N. New Braunfels Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78209
<http://www.sanantoniocc.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Rose J. Lilly*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - July 23, 2021 at 01:07 PM

KC

“ *Rose Lilly was one of my favorite people! She was one of a kind and I know she will be missed by all who knew her! May she Rest In Peace. Kathy Coniglio*

Kathy Coniglio - July 24, 2021 at 12:55 PM

TS

I had the pleasure meeting f bring Mrs Lilly caregivers. She was such an intelligent woman who didn't let anything pass her lol she was sharp and loved her family it broke my heart to know she passed. God bless the family

Tracy Smallwood - December 29, 2024 at 05:42 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.*



July 23, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 22, 2021 at 04:41 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 22, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ *With much Love, Nicholas Duval* purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



With much Love, Nicholas Duval - July 22, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 20, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.*



July 20, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ *Stéphanie and Jean purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Rose J. Lilly.*



Stéphanie and Jean - July 19, 2021 at 11:37 PM



“ *Johnnie & Mary Kay Heck purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rose J. Lilly.*



Johnnie & Mary Kay Heck - July 19, 2021 at 11:49 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.*



July 19, 2021 at 08:16 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 18, 2021 at 12:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 16, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Rose J. Lilly.



July 15, 2021 at 04:29 PM

RG

“ I was lucky to spend 2 day with Aunt Rose a few years ago . She treated me royally, made my sandwiches, and even put the cheese on my crackers as we had our drinks at noon . Happy hour she said , is any hour! We chatted and reminisced about the family and life In Brooklyn, we laughed and at times had some tears in our eyes. She proudly showed me all the pictures around the house of the family and told me little stories about each of them as she beamed with pride. Aunt Rose was truly a special lady and we were all blessed to know and love her .May she rest in Gods loving arms surrounded by all those who waited to see her again. My heartfelt sympathy to the entire Lilly family . 🙏🏠🌹

Richard Grillo - July 14, 2021 at 08:20 PM

MM

Richard, she loved you! I love what you wrote 😊

Meghan Militti - July 16, 2021 at 12:33 PM