



Virginia Brennan DeFillippi

April 11, 1926 - April 21, 2026

Virginia Brennan DeFillippi, 100 of Rensselaer, NY passed away very peacefully on April 21, 2026. She was born in Waterbury, CT. She is survived by 4 children, Virginia Brennan Murphy (Richard), Thomas Brennan (Lisa), Mary Brennan and John Brennan (Lisa), two step-children Robert DeFillippi (Jane) and Susan DeFillippi Broderick (John) and 17 grandchildren including step-grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.

Virginia & Richard Murphy's Children: Christopher Murphy (Sharon), Kathleen Murphy (Dave), Elizabeth Murphy Selig (Mike), Sarah Murphy Stevenson (Nick), Thereas Murphy, Margaret Murphy Seals (Mike), Stephan Murphy (Michelle), Patrick Murphy (Katie) and Bridget Murphy.

Tom & Lisa Brennan's Children: Jack T. Brennan and George D. Brennan.

John & Lisa Brennan's Children: John Brennan (Lauren), Kelly Brennan Giuliano (Scott) and Jessica Brennan Miller (TJ) .

Bob & Jane DeFillippi's Children: Christopher and Micheal DeFillippi

Susan DeFillippi & John Broderick's Child: Timothy Broderick.

She had numerous wonderful cousins, blessed nieces & nephews and beautiful friends She was preceded by her parents Phillip and Mamie Cianciolo, her beloved husband Thomas D. Brennan in 1974 and her second husband, Alphonse DeFillippi in 2004, 6 brothers; Fred, Mickey, John and one sister Lucy and 2 other children who passed early in life.

She was a very crafty creative imaginative woman. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, needle point and loved to sew. She was an avid reader. One of her friends, Zadia, gave her a book "101 Bible Short Stories for Seniors". This was the last book she read. She struggled reading due to failing eyesight, but devoured this book in a few days. She spoke of how much she enjoyed this book and how it helped her to continue to accept her journey of being in long term care even though she would have much preferred to be home, independent and caring for herself.

She loved the outdoors and as a child in CT would sit outside I believe under an apple tree reading and watch all the birds, especially the eastern bluebird which became her favorite. The bluebirds at that time were as prevalent as robins. She came to recognize the birds by their songs. She knew the names of all the trees in the northeast. In later years, she would love to sit on my deck, we would have cookouts and listen to the birds, some of them she could no longer hear. She always recognized the cardinal's call and greatly loved seeing them.

She was a humble, woman of tenacity and wisdom even at a young age. She grew up during the great depression, she sacrificed many different things for her family and her children. She lived life by the Serenity pray; "Accepting what cannot be changed, wisdom to know the difference and the courage to change what can be changed be change".

There will be a wake from 9:30 AM to 11:00 with a Mass immediately following the wake, all to be held at St. Vincent's Church 900 Madison Ave, Albany NY. 12208.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Bluebird @ landisarboretum.org/donate, or

Butterfly: <https://albanypinebush.org/friends-join-donate> or Tiger: @ Panthera.org.

The service is as follows: Monday, April 27, 2026, There will be a wake from 9:30 AM to 11:00 with a Mass immediately following the wake, all to be held at St. Vincent's church 900 Madison Ave, Albany, NY. 12208. The Mass to be live streamed @ www.stvincentalbany.

Live Streaming Facebook and people can watch it there in real time on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stvincentalbany/> Afterwards, it will upload it to YouTube and once it has processed.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ The DeFillippi’s came later to Virginia and her children’s lives. I came even later as Bob DeFillippi’s wife, Jane. Both she and Al were welcoming (I guess they all liked me better). What soon amazed me was how much she shared about her family and how proud she was of each. She was proud of Ginny, her strength at going cross country, having children “all alone”. Tommy and his carpentry skills, working so hard to provide for his family, Mary and her self determination and how hard she worked to begin to provide for herself, and John who would soon marry. Virginia had just married Al a few years before and she felt that she had wanted to be there for John a bit longer, but Al had a daughter Susan who was so much younger than John. She didn’t want to “take sides”, but she thought Tommy might be a better source of support. Susan was just so young.

When I arrived, Virginia wanted to talk about her Children and Grandchildren.

She knew everyone’s name and birthday. She had at least one special statement about each one. When our 2 came along, we got a special birthday card, every year. I don’t recall that they sent many thank you notes. But we chatted a lot by phone. Depending upon where they lived, and where we lived, we tried to see each other a few times a year, but always, she tried to show her love of our kids.... And then our grandkids.

She always told us when she saw all of you. We were happy when they moved to St Anthony’s Lane. They seemed settled. She made a lot of friends. Our biggest regret was that due to Bob’s condition, he could not travel more than once to see her last summer when we came back from FL. Her hearing difficulties made phone calls less frequent. We appreciated Mary calling us to chat while she visited Virginia at the SCNF. We tried to send cards and pictures to supplement. We will miss her love and her smile. We are happy to have been considered part of her family.

She was a lovely lady. Our condolences to her family and friends.

*Jane Ahern DeFillippi and Robert DeFillippi, m. 1981
sons Christopher '82 and Michael '85*

jane A DeFillippi - April 26 at 07:19 PM