



Mrs. Martha C. Clarke

July 5, 1925 - August 6, 2018

Mrs. Martha C. Clarke, 93, of Cortland, passed away August 6, 2018 at Cortland Regional Medical Center. Born July 5, 1925 in Colon, Panama the daughter of Colonel Milo Glen Cary and Martha L. Sutler, she was the daughter of a military officer. Martha was entirely and completely devoted to her family, and was kind and considerate to everyone she came into contact with. Martha traveled widely as a child, attending schools in the Philippines, Hawaii, Kansas, Illinois, Bayside, New York, and El Paso, TX. She was married for 66 years to her beloved late husband, Philip D. Clarke. They traveled widely together before and after moving to Cortland in 1960. In later years she assisted her husband at Clarke Brothers, a variety store that he owned and operated in Homer for over 30 years.

In addition to her parents; Martha was preceded in death by her husband in 2014, her son; George W. Clarke in 2015, her son; Philip R. Clarke in 1997, and her sister; Lady Margaret Brand in 2006.

Survivors include her children; Mary C. (Frank) Alverson of Jacksonville, Florida., Glen C. (Carol Guingo) Clarke of Cortland., Milo M. (Mary Papalia) Clarke of St. Augustine, Florida., Edward R. (Kumiko Takuma) Clarke of Kitakyushu, Japan, Richard J. (Yuki Katagishi) Clarke of Winter Park, Florida., nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In keeping with Martha's wishes there are no calling hours. Services will be at the convenience of family. Prayers of committal will be held privately in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.riccardifuneralhome.com Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y.

Tribute Wall

NP

“ *To all you Clarke children:
I just found out about your Mom's passing. I had the incredible honor of caring for your Dad for over a year through home care, and got to know not only him and your Mom, but most of you, too. Philip and Mah-tha were amazing people and amazing parents. And what a relationship they had! I am blessed to have known each and every one of you. My heart is with you and you are in my prayers.
With love,
Nancy Pearce*

Nancy Pearce - September 13, 2018 at 06:52 PM

MH

“ *What a keen sense of humor and sharp wit she had. Always a consummate scrabble player. Time and time again the letter Q (or other special letters) ended up on the triple point square. I remember a time when she was rattled. She called out in a quavering voice and I could tell it meant to hurry. There she was trying to advert disaster, a storm window was threatening to fall and she was holding on dearly. I sped up the stairs and averted the calamity. Martha was usually calm and steady (independent also) but this time it was whew! I picture Philip and Martha on the front porch looking out upon Evergreen Street (also reading Phil's letter to the editor). It takes time to adjust to these changes they a both missed. My sincerest condolences.
Michael Havington*

Michael Havington - August 14, 2018 at 10:39 AM

TW

“ Sincere condolences for the loss of your mom Marty. Marty was a gentle soul who was always a pleasure to be around. My mother and Marty were great friends and always enjoyed their time together when playing cards. I know your parents and mine became great friends when they purchased Karam's Department Store in 1963. This is a difficult time for your family and I share with you in your pain in this bittersweet life we all experience at some time. God Bless Marty for all she endured in this life and for all she accomplished. She truly left a wonderful legacy and no doubt was very proud of her family. Please know you are in my thoughts and that I wish you Peace, Love, Understanding and the Comfort of Fond Memories. May she Rest in Peace!

Tricia Karam Woodward

Tricia Woodward - August 10, 2018 at 10:44 AM

KT

“ To the Clarke Family,
So sorry to learn of your Mom's passing. She was so kind to my Mom and they were penpals for many years even though they lived in the same town. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Karen Kaussner Thompson - August 10, 2018 at 10:17 AM

RH

“ Sorry to hear about your mom she was a great lady. I remember staying the night at the Clarke House and in the morning your mom would make pancakes and beat them so they were thin because Dick liked them that way.

Randy Horner - August 09, 2018 at 05:38 PM

DS

“ Milo, glen, ted, rich, Mary and families. I'm very sorry for your loss. Your mom and dad were the best. Your family is the best. Our moms stayed in touch a lot and your mom often wrote or called my dad. I remember when I was 6 or 7 and Phil was in front of your house blowing giant bubbles with bubble gum. He made one the size of a basketball and I being a kid had to touch it which caused it to pop and cover his whole face, beard and hair. I was mortified but also thought it was funny. Phil was shocked but also thought it funny. Your mom was nearby and graciously blamed Phil for the mess saying " you should have known better than to let him touch it " you are all in my prayers. Dale Sponaule

Dale sponaule - August 08, 2018 at 06:41 PM

TF

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom. Just want you all to know that we're thinking of her and you at this difficult time.

Tim Fox - August 08, 2018 at 05:08 PM