



Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam

January 1, 1936 - March 5, 2025

Nassima Kortbawi Karam, 88, of Cortland, NY, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born and raised in Lebanon, she married Kozhaya Karam and raised her family in the Maronite Christian faith. In 1992, she emigrated to the U.S. and settled in Cortland, NY, in 1996, where she and her husband established Pita Gourmet on Main Street.

Nassima was known for her devotion to family, resilience, intellect, hard work, and, above all, her selflessness. She greeted everyone she met with kindness, leaving a lasting impression on those around her. She was preceded in death by her brother, Milad Kortbawi.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, five children, and their families: George (Therese) Karam, Charbel (Hana) Karam, Carlos (Helene) Karam, Mireille (Mark) Lewis, and Madona (Elie) Haykal. She was a beloved grandmother to thirteen grandchildren: Izek, Rackelle (Jody Leonard), Sarah (Noel Hajj) Karam, Rebecca (Taylor) Dale, Patricia (Zach) Lovell, Marcus (Emily Dephillipo), Jacob, Adam Karam, Maureen, Mark II, Mathew Lewis, Selena (Jordan Nicotra), and Anthony Haykal. She also leaves behind two cherished great-grandchildren, Harper Lovell and Cameron Dale.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, March 10, at 10:30

AM at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, followed by a receiving line and the Christian Rite of Committal and burial in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Contributions in Nassima's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

Condolences may also be shared at www.riccardifuneralhome.com
Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y.

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



March 10, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.

March 10, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Eric and Sarah Brown purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



Eric and Sarah Brown - March 10, 2025 at 06:40 AM



“ *Georges Issa & Dr. Liliane Elkassis purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



Georges Issa & Dr. Liliane Elkassis - March 09, 2025 at 10:25 PM

LJ

“ Nassima , Sy and their family welcomed me to the neighborhood over 16 years ago. Their consistent generosity can never be measured. I will miss her smile, her hugs and beautiful smile as well as our conversations and hugs. Rest in peace my friend. May your memory be a blessing

Love, Lauren

Lauren Reiner Jastremski - March 08, 2025 at 04:36 PM

CC

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

Connie & Fred Compagni - March 08, 2025 at 01:36 PM

PA

“ Pegor & Tamar Aynajian purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.



Pegor & Tamar Aynajian - March 08, 2025 at 09:55 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.



March 08, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



March 07, 2025 at 05:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



March 07, 2025 at 09:03 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



March 07, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *Bahij, Rosie and the Kashou family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.*



Bahij, Rosie and the Kashou family - March 06, 2025 at 05:22 PM

BF

“ Bahij, Rosie and the Kashou family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Nassima Kortbawi Karam.

Bahij, Rosie and the Kashou family - March 06, 2025 at 05:22 PM

TI

“ Our deepest condolences to the Karam family. Nassima was always a smiling figure in the community - always making people feel good when they were in her presence. It will be great loss for everyone and I know your family will treasure her always. Our thoughts are with you all. Tina, Geo, Isabella

Tina - March 06, 2025 at 12:14 PM

PL

“ Life will not be the same without your beautiful smile and the way your face would light up when our whole family came together. I am beyond lucky to have had you in my life for all of my biggest accomplishments: my high school and college graduations, my wedding, and welcoming our beautiful baby girl Harper into this world. To hear her point to your picture and say “Teta” is something I will always be proud of. I love you forever and I will never let the world forget you.



Patricia Lovell - March 06, 2025 at 12:08 PM

NM

*So saddened by the news of Nassima 's passing
My sincere condolences to the whole family Nassima was a great lady!
always smiling always cheerful ;facing life's challenges head-on, she
will be missed dearly .Allah yerhama*

rIP dear Nassima

Nada Salman Elhassan MD - March 06, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ For the last five years, all i heard is “ Just like your grandma”. I
couldn't be more happier!
I love you Teta ☐



Sarah El Hajj - March 06, 2025 at 11:57 AM

RK

“ I love you Teta ❤️



rackelle karam - March 06, 2025 at 11:47 AM

SE

“Teta always told me how excited she was to see me become a doctor. She never left jiddo, but she came with us to my graduation for a whole weekend. She bought me the most beautiful flowers and teared up when she told me how proud she was of me. She was the best

Selena - March 06, 2025 at 11:44 AM