



Lynnette Harvell Raffio

April 28, 2021

Lynnette Raffio, 66, passed away on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Lynnette was born in Rochester, New York. She grew up in upstate New York and New Jersey and attended the Katharine Gibbs school after graduating from Montville Township High School. At age 22, she relocated with her family to Lakeland, Florida, where she lived for most of her life.

Lynnette built a decades-long career at Pepperidge Farm, Inc., working alongside people she truly loved and respected before retiring and pouring her love and her time into her family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Carol Harvell.

She is survived by her daughter, Samantha Bamaca, son-in-law, Emerson Bamaca, and granddaughter, Isla Bamaca.

She is also survived by her brother, David Harvell (Kim), niece, Jacquelyn Harvell (Tyson & Margo), nephew, Thomas Harvell (Brittany), uncle, Rick Harvell (Patty), and cousins, Mike, Scott (Kristy), Rick Jr. (Robyn), and Dan (Michelle) Harvell.

Lynnette was the epitome of selflessness, compassion, care, and support for the people around her. She was a shining light, offering a safe haven to anyone who passed her port. She lived with absolute humility, courage, and grace, introducing a sense of peace that enveloped people when they needed it most.

Sustained by her faith in God and her love for people, Lynnette lived out a calling to shine

the light of the Lord in every endeavor. She had an uncanny ability to come alongside a person and care for them the way the Lord cares for his flock. This natural gift for imparting unconditional love opened the door for her to share God's grace with the people around her, which she did freely and often.

Not a day will pass that we won't miss Lynnette greatly. However, her light cannot be extinguished. It lives on in every single person she touched.

A viewing will be held on Monday, May 3, at Gentry-Morrison Southside from 5-7pm. This will be followed by a graveside service at Oak Hill on Tuesday, May 4 at 10am.

For those who feel moved to give, donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the following organizations close to Lynnette's heart:

The Moody Bible Institute to support Moody Bible Radio

Covenant House to support an organization that builds a bridge to hope for young people facing homelessness and survivors of trafficking through unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

3

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road, Lakeland, FL, US, 33801

MAY **Graveside Service** 10:00AM

4

Oak Hill Burial Park
4620 US Highway 98 S, Lakeland, FL, US, 33812

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - May 03, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ An external video has been added.



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - May 02, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ -Dr. Nofallah & Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



-Dr. Nofallah & Staff - May 03, 2021 at 10:48 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 02, 2021 at 08:54 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 02, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ Oh boy, where do I start with my best friend Lynnette. Lynnette's faith is unwavering. She is my spiritual barometer. Being an Italian Jersey girl is difficult, but she always brought me back to being centered in Christ. Always generous and giving, always there for Sam and Isla at the drop of the hat. Always gave even when she was uncertain it was what was needed. I have been so truly blessed to have had her in my life for some 20 years here on Earth. She is the sister I never had by blood. Even though she is not here on Earth, she is still alive, alive in her glorified body and with Christ.

I look forward to seeing her when it's my time to be in Heaven.

Ann Pici

Ann Pici - May 02, 2021 at 10:04 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 01, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ I am heartbroken to announce the loss of my mom.

My mom was absolutely perfect. Her ability to really and truly care for people completely was something so rare and a treasure to all who encountered her.

Looking through her phone, I can almost see life through her eyes. There are notes about just about everyone in town. Notes about neighbors and their anniversaries. Notes about bank tellers and shopkeepers and their upcoming surgeries or prayer requests. Notes about her family and friends and lists of blessings and things she was thankful for. There are also recipes, names of books she wanted to buy, notes from sermons she had heard, and notes she had left for me to find.

Mom was my person. My lifeline. My true north. My sounding board and my proofreader.

She was and is woven into every fiber of my being. It's her voice I hear in my mind, always encouraging me to trust myself, to follow my intuition. A lifetime under her wings taught me to listen for the Holy Spirit and to seek his voice, too.

She was mine and I was hers. And now she's gone and I'm shattered.

But I've seen something in the past couple of days: the power of people.

Mom believed in the power of people more than most. For example, she rejected self-checkouts. Yep. She would not use a self-checkout. Ever. Why? Because she believed in the power of human connection, even at the grocery store checkout, the bank teller window, and anywhere else people were helping people.

The people who have shown up for us these past couple of days are a beautiful reminder of what mom always hammered home. Machines will never be able to replace people. We need human connection. We can't make it without our people.

To the people who have dropped notes, dropped food, picked up Isla, made calls, talked me down, booked flights, and overall just held me upright over the past couple of days... you have shown me mom's love in so many ways, stepping into the space she left, moment by moment.

I will mourn her for the rest of my life. But I'll also celebrate her, honor her, and try to be half the woman she was. Thank you to everyone who has shared about mom in notes, texts, and emails. Your memories of mom are keeping me afloat and helping bring me closer to mom's spirit.





“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 01, 2021 at 01:07 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 01, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ For a year I lived right next door to Sam. In that time I got to meet Lynette. She was truly a blessing to be around. It was just comfortable to be around her. You just showed up as yourself and she was always so loving. Offering kind words, advice, some hot tea, and her baked goodies. I see why Sam is such an amazing mom. Because she had Lynette as an example to follow.

Sonya Baldwin - May 01, 2021 at 08:08 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



May 01, 2021 at 07:58 AM



“ Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



April 30, 2021 at 09:59 PM



“ Thirty-four years ago, our daughters decided that since they were besties that Lynnette and I were to be besties, too. And so we were! Talk about blessings! Thirty-four years of cherished memories with Lynnette...a person of kindness, patience, an unswerving dedication to the Lord, and an unmatched generous spirit. When we met, we were fairly new at being divorced and raising our daughters. But, loads of adventures, laughter, some tears and one too many Happy Meals saw us through. Lynnette helped me navigate those years and all the years to come. We tried to live with joy and balance. Lynnette was a great problem solver... often providing calm and peaceful solutions to simple and difficult problems. Always one step ahead...a simple story but so reflective of Lynnette's pragmatic solutions. We were at Denny's , I think, solving the problems of the world . I remember lamenting that I couldn't afford to throw away my leftovers but couldn't afford the Saran Wrap. Lynnette said, "ummm, just put a plate on top of the dish". I still smile and laugh at that "Ta da" moment. But, that was Lynnette... calm, easy and pragmatic solutions! We had so many precious moments and those memories are more precious now. Never a harsh word, never a negative thought, always honest and giving...thanks Nette for sharing your time here on earth with me. I am forever blessed and grateful. You are still one step ahead. I hope we will see each other,again. Meanwhile, enjoy your heavenly rest. I know for certain you are now and have always been an Angel.

charlene vocelle - April 30, 2021 at 08:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



April 30, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gentry Morrison - April 30, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ Lynnette, My dear friend. What a positive and uplifting attitude you always had. We shared many happy times;working together at Grants, trips to the Jersey shore, Martinique, and our most recent to Charleston.What a wonderful time! I loved sharing pictures of our granddaughters. I will miss you forever. Love You! Alison

Alison Frint - April 30, 2021 at 12:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lynnette Harvell Raffio.



April 30, 2021 at 11:59 AM