



Marianne Thomas Opilla

May 23, 1955 - June 16, 2022

Marianne Thomas Opilla, 67, died Thursday, June 16, 2022 peacefully and surrounded by loved ones at her home in Huddleston, VA. She passed away from ALS after battling the disease with incredible strength and grace for almost 3 years.

Marianne was born May 23, 1955 in Springfield, VA, daughter of the late Robert Thomas and Mary Piper Thomas. She lived a life full of love, family, dogs, and adventures, and made all feel welcome with her kindness and ability to make everything fun.

Marianne spent her life caring for others: her family, friends, and countless patients as a Registered Nurse for over 30 years. She was an expert in her field of nutrition support nursing with numerous publications, awards, and conference presentations. She loved being outside and taking in the energy of nature. She enjoyed skiing as an active member of the Richmond Ski Club, hiking, boating, wakeboarding, gardening, and running marathons. She loved her dogs, as evidenced by having raised seven Golden Retrievers, both from puppies and as rescues. Marianne loved hosting family and friends at her home on Smith Mountain Lake, taking them for sunset boat cruises toward the "pot of gold," and never feeling shy to be life of the party with singing and dancing!

Marianne was the beloved wife of Steve Opilla for 44 years. She is survived by her daughter, Amy Soleta, and her husband, Shaun, of Orange County, CA; her son, Hunter Opilla, his wife, Jennifer, and their three children, Shelby, Dylan, and Mason of Tucson, AZ; and her brother, Dwight Thomas, of Omaha, NE.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Steve and Marianne's home on Smith Mountain Lake, July 23rd 2022 with further details to come.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider Centra Hospice, 2097 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24501 through the Centra Foundation: <<https://www.centrahealth.com/foundation/online-donation-form>>, the Bedford Humane Society, 829 Ole Turnpike Dr., Bedford, VA 24523: <<https://www.bhsva.org/donate-in-memory-of>> or the DC/MD/VA chapter of the ALS Association's Community of Hope: https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/TR/PersonalFund/DCMDVA?px=8407578&pg=personal&fr_id=10035#.YrC0vuzMK8U <https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/TR/PersonalFund/DCMDVA?px=8407578&pg=personal&fr_id=10035>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ My first ALS symptom occurred in 2016, but was diagnosed in 2018. I had severe symptoms ranging from shortness of breath, balance problems, couldn't walk without a walker or a power chair, i had difficulty swallowing and fatiue. I was given medications which helped but only for a short burst of time, then I decided to try alternative measures and began on ALS Formula treatment from Aknni herbs centre, It has made a tremendous difference for me (Visit ww w. aknniherbscentre.c om). I had improved walking balance, increased appetite, muscle strength, improved eyesight and others.

cory merlon - June 10, 2025 at 06:05 AM

KL

“ Marianne and Steve Opilla are my sister's, Donna, sister- and brother-in-laws.

I finally met Marianne in 2019 at Steve's retirement party, after hearing so much about her and the family's activities and adventures, over the years, from my Mom, Frances; Steve's Mom, Helen; and, my sister, Donna.

Very heartbreaking. May love and wonderful memories help you navigate through this difficult time.



Karen Lusk - July 09, 2022 at 07:45 PM

KL

“ Karen Lusk lit a candle in memory of Marianne Thomas Opilla



Karen Lusk - July 09, 2022 at 07:23 PM

LW

“ I have such fond memories of Mrs. Opilla, beginning in the early Queensmill days. She was one of the sweetest people I have known and was truly a ray of sunshine to be around--from the Brownie Scout days through high school (i.e., beach week!) and beyond. Her obituary so beautifully captures her roles as beloved wife/matriarch, nursing professional, giver, and fun-loving friend.

I am so blessed to have reconnected with Amy in the past couple years. Amy, you personify your mom's warm, radiant spirit, and I know you were a source of such joy and pride for her. Lots of love being sent to the whole family.

*With heartfelt sympathy and love,
Laura (Daniel) and Lincoln Willis*

Laura Daniel Willis - July 03, 2022 at 09:52 AM

MA

“ Marian sent a virtual gift in memory of Marianne Thomas Opilla



Marian - July 01, 2022 at 12:43 PM