



Gabriella Powell

May 22, 1932 - February 9, 2020

Gabriella Powell, a beautiful wife, mother, and grandmother, was granted her angel wings on Sunday, February 9, 2020. In her final weeks, she was surrounded by her family; who were the most important people in her life. She was 87 years old.

Gabriella Predicatori was born on May 22, 1932 in Senegalia, Italy. She was the oldest of three girls. When she was six years old, her family moved to Eritrea, Ethiopia, where she grew up amidst a community of Italians and Eritreans. In her early twenties, she worked at the American Army Base, as an office assistant. It was during this time that she met a handsome American soldier who would become the love of her life, David Powell. After years of courtship, which included American movies and Italian family dinners, they were married at the Catholic Cathedral in Asmara, on April 8, 1956.

After settling in the Pacific Northwest, Dave and Gabi had five children: Angela, Gloria (Cocca), David, Renato, and Luciana. Gabi embraced her role as Mamma and housewife with fervor and ran a very organized household; cooking dinner every night, keeping her home spotless, and balancing sports and piano lessons for the children.

In the 1980s, Gabi discovered a new talent - she was an amazing salesperson. Starting at Meier & Frank, then Macy's, Gabi was the top

salesperson in the designer handbag department for many years. She treated her customers like family and most of them returned year after year to visit with her and to purchase their handbags. She was almost a local celebrity, as she would often be stopped when she was out and about by customers who wanted to say hello. Gabi retired from Macy's in 2008 but missed it so much; she loved her customers dearly.

Another passion for Gabi: her grandchildren. She had 15 grandchildren and she couldn't have been prouder to be called their Nonni. She and Dave were regular spectators for everything from football games to dance recitals, Open Mic Nights to plays and musicals. And the entire time she was there, she would tell anyone close by who her grandchild was and just how amazing they were. Her eyes would light up anytime she had the opportunity to talk about them; they were the light of her life.

Gabi will always be remembered for her larger-than-life personality. Even though she was petite, she was a firecracker. Every person who met her was touched by her warmth, her happiness, and her amazing ability to make you feel like the most important person in the world. Gabi loved you from the minute she met you and she never let you forget it.

Gabi is survived by her husband, Dave, her children Angela, Cocca (Jeff), David (Kimmie), Renato (Tonya), and Luciana (Jacob), her 15 grandchildren Tyran, Christopher, Briana, Daiva, Domenico, Lela, Parrish, Mallori, Livy, Francesco, Brendan, Mariella, Gabriel, Isabella, Davie and three great-grandchildren: Tucker, Rhett, and Ever.

Her funeral service will be held at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church in Portland, OR, on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in Gabi's name to the Dominican

Sisters of Mission San Jose. <https://www.msjdominicans.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:48 PM

RH

“ I recently heard the sad news of Gabi's passing. I grew up with the Powell's and Renato was best man in my wedding. I could tell stories for hours of the vivacious, loving person Gabi was but I honestly just want to say that she was the most giving and lovely person I've met. She treated you like family and I remember all the wonderful meals she made and just how sweet and caring Mrs Powell was to me throughout my life knowing her. Rod Hiatt

Rod Hiatt - August 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ I only knew Gabriella for a short while. However, she was one of loveliest patients, for whom have had the honor of caring. Her family was so close and loving. I know that meant the world to her. With the greatest sympathy, Dr Winter

Will Winter - February 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Gabby was a beautiful woman and the love she shared with her children and grandchildren was so evident! She was kind to me and always had a hug or kiss to greet me. She will be missed and loved forever!

Carolyn Wilson - February 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori Bianchini - February 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ One of our favorite memories is having Nonni use the Snapchat filters with us. There was an Angel filter, and we recorded her as an Angel and she says, 'I am an Angel!' She truly was/is an Angel. Not having her physically here with us is hard to believe and doesn't seem real, but knowing she is an angel watching over us helps us to heal. We love you and miss you terribly Nonni! ❤️🙏❤️

Kim Heinemann Powell - February 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Not only was this woman my Mamma but she was my best friend. We went through a lot of adventures and difficult times together. But I carry many pieces of my Mom with me. I remember standing by her side in the kitchen as a little girl, learning to cook her Italian food. It was important for me to carry on the Italian tradition with the food. I'm the person and the cook I am today because of HER. Part of me went with her. I'll miss our daily (and I mean several times a day) phone calls. My heart is broken and I love you my Mamma and I'm truly going to miss you. ❤️❤️❤️

Cocca Bancroft - February 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Mom was one of my biggest supporters - I don't think she and I ever had a cross word. The most important thing about her, so far as I'm concerned, is that she raised Cocca - the best wife and mom I could ask for. Her love of her family was endless, and it's hard to imagine a world without her in it.

Jeff bancroft - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM